

FIFTY YEARS
OF
BRAE BURN

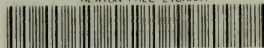
1897—1947

BRAE BURN COUNTRY CLUB

WEST NEWTON MASSACHUSETTS

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Newton Call



Original Clubhouse — 1899. It Stood Between the Two Big Boulders on the Site of the Canopy, Facing South.

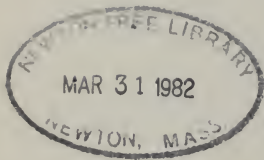


The Clubhouse Today, 1947

FIFTY YEARS
OF
BRAE BURN

1897—1947

BRAE BURN COUNTRY CLUB
WEST NEWTON MASSACHUSETTS



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PRINTED BY
BRAE BURN COUNTRY CLUB
SEPTEMBER 1, 1947

TO OUR MEMBERS

A great man (but not a golfer or he would have talked about it in his works) one W. Shakespeare, once remarked,

“The service and the loyalty I owe,
In doing it, pays itself.”

That is how we feel. We are honored to have been chosen for this task. If you enjoy the show and think it was well put on, we the stage hands behind the scenes, will lower the curtain, put out the lights, and go home, happy in the thought that we have served you well.

We look into the long future, think how Brae Burn will mean to men and women yet unborn, exactly what it means to us, the living, now, and send them this message:

“Since we shall never see your face,
Nor ever take you by the hand,
We send our voice through time and space
To greet you — you will understand.”

MEMBERS OF THE FIFTIETH ANNIVERSARY COMMITTEE

FRANK ASHLEY DAY
LUZERNE S. COWLES (Finance)
MRS. ADNA C. DENISON
ROBERT RAYMOND GORTON
MRS. RAYMOND D. HUNTING
EDWIN C. JOHNSON
SHIRLEY K. KERNS (Book Editor)
CHARLES ADRIAN SAWYER, JR., *Ex Officio*
ARTHUR T. SOULE (Memorial Committee)
WILLIAM B. PLUMER, *Chairman*

CLUB OFFICERS 1947

CHARLES ADRIAN SAWYER, JR.	<i>President</i>
MARSHALL B. DALTON	<i>Vice-President</i>
HARRY S. BALDWIN	<i>Vice-President</i>
WILLIAM H. RICE	<i>Secretary</i>
CLIFFORD H. WALKER	<i>Treasurer</i>

PAST OFFICERS

Presidents

GEORGE H. PHELPS	1897 — 1900
CHARLES I. TRAVELLI	1900 (14 days)
HARRY L. AYER	1900 (25 days)
GEORGE A. FROST	1900 — 1921
HENRY B. DAY	1921 — 1928
LEON B. ROGERS	1928 — 1944

Treasurers

HARRY L. BURRAGE	1897 — 1900
FRANK B. WITHERBEE	1900 — 1905
WILLIAM A. YOUNG	1905 — 1923
EVERETT S. LITCHFIELD	1923 — 1928
STANLEY M. BOLSTER	1928 — 1940

Secretaries

EDWARD F. WOODS	1897 — 1931
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FOREWORD

Happy is the house that shelters a friend.—*Emerson.*
From these gates Sorrow flies far.—*Milton.*

DEAR FRIENDS, few of us have trod the braes or fished the burns of bonny Scotland. Visits to the ancestral home of golf may not have been ours, but after all, what have we missed?

For many years and many many miles we have trudged our own green braes in alternating moods of elation and despair. We have fished the limpid waters of our own burn, seeking the errant Titlist or the elusive Spalding Dot. How have our pulses quickened and our blood pressure mounted, watching a long high shot, hopeful that it would land on the green, fearful that it would splash in the brook or bury itself in a trap!

We groan, some of us, when our non-golfing wives suggest a Sunday morning stroll—yet a five-mile walk over the golf course we look forward to with eagerness. We contemplate with reluctance a lonely monotonous three-hour motor trip to some distant point, but three hours spent in keen competition with our friends fly by before we know it,

“So like the lightning which doth cease to be,
Ere one can say, ‘It lightens.’”

Have you ever wondered how far your two feet have carried you in your golfing life? Two of your elder friends estimate that in forty years they have girdled the earth. It is a matter of simple arithmetic. From tee to green our course measures 6528 yards. Walking from green to tee, pursuing wayward shots, searching for lost balls, we easily add about 2500 yards more. Five miles to a round, fifteen rounds a month, nine months a year (these men go South) for forty years—total 27,020 miles.

Why does this game so hold men and never relax its grip? You may be a 70 man or an 80 man, you may never break a 100—but you never give it up. Old fellows in their sixties and seventies still stride manfully to the lesson tee, striving to “improve” their game,—the acme of futility. Your Editor does not hesitate to write thus, for in such efforts, like good Abou ben Adhem, “his name leads all the rest.” The Romans knew nothing of golf, but one of them wrote a prophetic line describing its devotees. “*Gratis anhelans, multa agendo nihil agens*”: “Uselessly out of breath, attempting much and accomplishing nothing.”

One of our members maintains that golf grips us so strongly because it gives all the thrills of gambling. You watch your ball high in the air with a fearful fascination. If it lands safely, you hold four aces to the other fellow’s

kings. If it gets into trouble, luck is against you, your cards are no good, and you lose the jack-pot. Another asserts that he plays for the pure fun of the game. Says he, "I don't play for money, I play for fun. But," he then adds, "if I don't make any money, I don't have any fun!" But when we say golf gives all the thrills of gambling, we do not refer to the wagers we win or lose. As a matter of fact, in 1903 the Directors' "minutes" contain a ruling that "No game for the wager of money shall be permitted in the club."

The above, with its reiteration of the words "man" and "men," reads as if we had completely forgotten that women too play golf. Heaven forbid! We wish to make it clear that "Man" is here used as a generic term which includes the whole human race—men, women and children. Let the ladies recall the preacher, announcing the subject of his sermon as "Man," who was careful to explain, "You must never forget, my friends, that man embraces woman!"

Is this foreword, thus far, too much about golf? It should be remembered that in the early years of Brae Burn, there was nothing but golf (for the first two years, not even a club house), and golf is still the predominant interest of most of our members. Much later we took up many other games. We began to dine and dance, play bridge, tennis, hockey, ski and skate.

We now play many different games—but the man who plays a game solely for the game itself, misses the greatest benefit of such an activity. Without games many of us would never have been known except as "Mr.," and would have been nothing but stodgy business and professional men to the end of our days.

In Brae Burn's café and locker-rooms, "Mr." is almost never heard except as a term of badinage. First names are practically universal—*given* names sometimes they are called—names given us to be used by our friends. If you want to push a man away from you, call him "Mr."—adding his patronymic, which merely identifies him as one member of a clan. But if you wish him to be your friend, call him by his given name which marks him as a single individual and a definite personality whom you like and respect.

Get out your membership list and count the number of men and women who call you by the name you have borne from birth. You may be astonished to learn how many there are who are always glad to see you, know your good points, and forgive you your little weaknesses. You will glow with satisfaction at finding so many, bound more closely to you by pleasant companionships and happy mutual experiences.

Brae Burn has been our second home. Here, when we were young and fell in love, some of us found our wives. Here, when our children were little, we left them for long afternoons, certain of clean companionship for them—certain of the safety of their clumsy little bodies in the hands of our old and trusted employees. Here, these same children have grown up, and have made many friendships which will last out their lives. Here we ourselves (much more frequently than in the dear dead days beyond recall when "maids" was a word with a meaning) lunch and dine with our friends instead of at home.

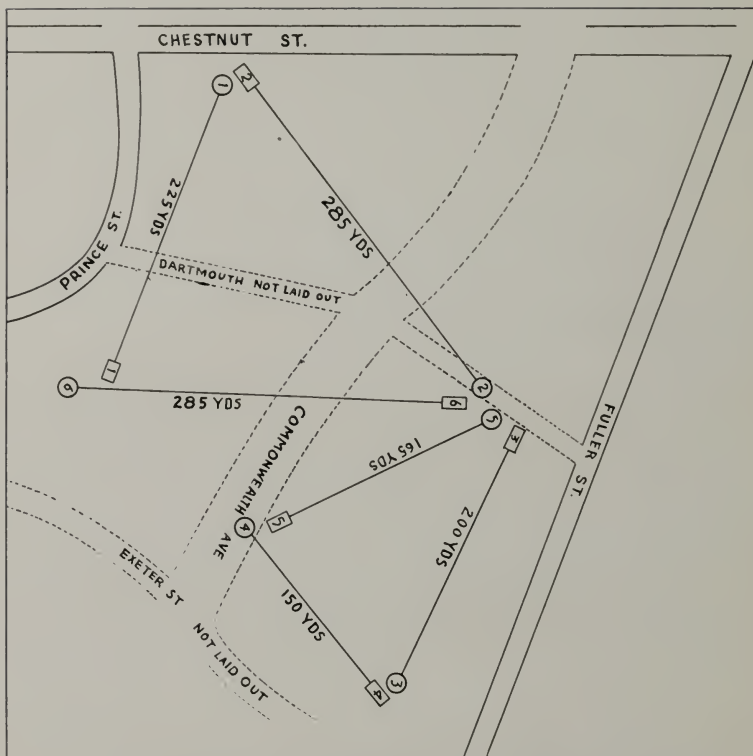
This is what Brae Burn has done for us all — old and young, husbands and wives, sons and daughters. No wonder that we remember Henry the Fifth's words to his soldiers before the battle of Agincourt. These words fit us, too, so well: "We few, we happy few, we band of brothers."

Brae Burn goes on — and when our hundredth anniversary rolls around, the man who writes our story will read this book and understand that we too, like the men fifty years before us, took our joy in living, withstood the shocks and sorrows which come to us all, and drank life to the lees. By our future biographer fifty years from now, may it be said of us that both in our games and the sterner realities of our lives, we strove always to play the man, to do the sportsmanlike thing, to win without elation, to lose without whimpering. May he find proof in musty old records that we came somewhere near to meeting the standards imagined long ago by Tennyson for Ulysses and his men:

"That which we are, we are —
One equal temper of heroic hearts,
Made weak by time and fate, but strong in will
To strive, to seek, to find, and not to yield."

SHIRLEY KENDRICK KERNS

September 8, 1947.



The Story of Brae Burn

THIS is 1947. Brae Burn is fifty years old. American historians call the men who signed our Declaration of Independence "The Founding Fathers." This tends to make us think of them as old men. But of the thirty-six "signers" who were of sufficient consequence to be now listed in a biographical dictionary, two were in their twenties, fourteen in their thirties, and fourteen in their forties. So use your imaginations when you think of the founding "fathers" of Brae Burn. Remember that with negligible exceptions fathers are always young men when they first become fathers. The group who in 1897 incorporated "The Brae Burn Golf Club," as it was first named, were young men in their twenties and early thirties. They had heard of this new game three or four years before and were curious to try it out. Probably doing much of the work with their own hands, they made a six-hole course on both sides of Commonwealth Avenue, then known as the Newton Boulevard, using their home grounds on the north and unoccupied land on the south. These home grounds were between what is now Dartmouth and Chestnut streets.

The first tee was on the property of John Pushee; the first green was on Henry B. Day's lawn. Then they *drove over* the Boulevard, doubtless to the amazement and exasperation of coachmen and carriage occupants when a gutty ball whizzed over their heads or smacked the sleek haunches of their well-groomed steeds. The second green, the third and fourth holes, and the fifth tee were on the south side. From the fifth tee they drove back again over the Boulevard, teed off on the north side and putted out on the sixth green near Prince street. Opposite is the lay-out of that six-hole course prepared by our old friend and former member, Edwin Peters, who caddied there.

After a short period of play, 1895-1896, on this very home-made course, they got the fever and became more ambitious.

So in 1895 they began the work of organizing the real Brae Burn. Construction of a very simple nine-hole "links" on part of the land we now own adjacent to Fuller street was begun April 10, 1897, and opened for play thirty-two days later on May 12—some record for speed.

At a meeting of the Charter Members April 24, 1897, they signed the following

AGREEMENT OF ASSOCIATION

We whose names are hereto subscribed, do by this agreement associate ourselves with the intention to constitute a Corporation according to the provisions of the One Hundred and Fifteenth Chapter of Public Statutes of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

The name by which the Corporation shall be known is the

BRAE BURN GOLF CLUB.

The purpose for which the Corporation is constituted is for encouraging, promoting and practising athletic exercises, especially the game of Golf, and for acquiring and holding land and buildings and personal property for such purposes.

The place within which the Corporation is established or located is the City of Newton, in the County of Middlesex, within the said Commonwealth.

The amount of its capital stock is, Nothing.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, we have hereunto set our hands, this twenty-fourth day of April, in the year eighteen hundred and ninety-seven.

Fredk. S. Pratt
Robert Gorton
Chas. W. Leatherbee
F. F. Raymond 2nd
Charles I. Travelli
Harry L. Ayer
E. H. Ferry
Edward E. Adams
Thomas B. Lindsay
Fred. L. Felton
Herbert Crawford Perkins
Charles P. Darling
Lawrence Mayo
Leonidas H. Cress
Wm. B. H. Dowse
Henry P. Perkins Jr.
Robert W. Williamson
Mary P. Metcalf
Albert C. Warren
Arthur Howland
Chas. A. Wyman
Wm. A. Young
Henry B. Day
Edward F. Woods
Frank A. Day
Ellery Peabody

George H. Phelps
William T. Farley
Arthur C. Farley
George T. Lincoln
George A. Blaney
Frederic R. Cutter
George A. Frost
James C. Melvin
Charles P. Hall
George N. Talbot
R. G. Elkins
Guy Warren Walker
Harry Lang Burrage
Wm. Saville
Edward E. Williams
Benj. S. Palmer
F. W. Remick
David W. Noyes
Josiah B. Chase
Wm. B. Merrill
Chas. E. Hatfield
Edgar W. Anthony
Francis Geo. Curtis
A. Stuart Pratt
R. C. Downer
Chas. W. Sweet

The above AGREEMENT OF ASSOCIATION was duly approved by the Commissioner of Corporations, and it was recorded in his office on May 29, 1897, that the above men and their successors were legally organized and established as an existing corporation under the name of the BRAE BURN GOLF CLUB.

(The three living Charter Members, A. Stuart Pratt, Fredk. S. Pratt, and Harry Lang Burrage, are in reasonably good health. Death has claimed forty-one. The other eight we have been unable to trace.)

At the next meeting of the members on May 6, 1897, George H. Phelps was elected Chairman, and Edward F. Woods was chosen "temporary" Clerk. This "temporary" appointment is a record for the club. Ed. Woods was Brae Burn's Secretary for Thirty-four years. He and Will Rice, the present incumbent, are the only secretaries the club has ever had.

(Let no reader cavil at our intentional omission of any "handle" to these Charter Members' names. They were our benefactors and would have been our friends. They did shrewd and intelligent work for us, their work still lives, and we think of them with gratitude. The bigger the man, the less his need of a title. "Mr." Abraham Lincoln would be absurd—so we shall continue to talk about George Frost, Harry Ayer, Ed. Woods, et cetera.)

Our oldest charter member, A. Stuart Pratt, has told us how the club got its name. Before incorporation, there was a meeting at the home of George A. Frost. The question arose as to what the new club should be called. Mrs. Frost was consulted. She said, "You have meadows and you have a brook—but don't call it Meadowbrook. Golf is a Scotch game. Make it Scotch. Call it Brae Burn"—so Brae Burn it became. The good lady's suggestion has since attained a degree of popularity she never dreamed of. In country clubs all over the world, "Make it Scotch" has become an expression of preference frequently heard.

CLUB COLORS AND EMBLEM

On May 18, 1897, the Directors adopted the Thistle and the Leslie Plaid as the insignia of the club. The colors have never been changed, but in 1900 the Four-leaf Clover was substituted for the thistle. When we told Baxter Milne about these colors, he said, "My God, that's my clan. My mother was a Leslie." We are indebted to him for the following account. Very likely the determining factor in the decision as to our colors for a golf club was the Leslie motto, "Grip Fast." King Malcolm was the son of Duncan, that king of Scotland who was murdered by Macbeth.

Bartholdus, the founder of the family of Leslie, came to Scotland in 1067 from the continent in the retinue of Margaret, who became Queen of King Malcolm.

The family arms are:

A field argent, traversed with a belt or girdle azure, in which are three buckles gules, supported on the dexter and sinister side by two griffins proper. The crest is a demi-griffin proper, having a scroll with the motto "Grip Fast."

The origin of these arms is thus related by tradition:

Bartholdus held the office of Lord Chamberlain to the Queen, and had the honour, according to the primitive fashion of those times, of carrying the Queen on his own horse when she travelled. For ease a pad behind the Cham-

berlain was provided for the Queen, and, for safety, a belt buckled round his waist supplied her with a stay in case of danger or uneasy motion. On one occasion, when both thus mounted were crossing a river, the Queen nearly fell from the horse. On this the Chamberlain in great anxiety, called out, "Grip fast," to which the Queen, doubtful of the strength of the buckle, replied, "Gin the buckle bide." To obviate the danger of the buckle giving way in future, two more buckles were forthwith added to the belt. And, in commemoration of the event, says the legend, Bartholdus got the above device for his family arms.

Perusal of old Brae Burn records and scrap books prove that these shrewd young men had their light-hearted moments and thoroughly enjoyed themselves. It has been the custom of our own younger generation to poke fun at "the gay nineties" and to laugh at the young people of that far-off time with their voluminous skirts, their "picture" hats, their sporty "blazers," and their pickle-dish derbies. But we suspect that the youth of those simpler times were better off than their grandsons and granddaughters nowadays. Young men lived out their normal lives and married the girls they loved. Statesmen all over the civilized world with sideburns and handle-bar moustaches scrupulously kept their plighted words. No megalomaniac dictators set the world on fire with their trail of broken promises and started World Wars which destined millions of young men to death and doomed millions of young women, in consequence, to miss husbands and homes and children.

Human nature, young or old, does not change as to fundamental thoughts, habits, and emotions. Youth is always youth and boys will be boys, no matter what age they happen to have lived in. Witness the wording of this suggestion in 1907 to the Directors of Brae Burn that golf be permitted at the club on Sundays: "Personally I believe that the time will come when athletic competitions will be permitted on the Lord's day in Massachusetts. But at the present time such competitions are forbidden by statutes hardly yet describable as 'blue.' Surely it is better to indulge in manly exercise in the open air than it is to gather in 'an upper room,' where only the clink of glasses and the clash of ivory chips punctuate the silence. But law, and still to a great extent public opinion, forbids match games of any sport."

Though doubtless a considerable number on the Board were sympathetic to this proposal, public opinion was strongly against it and it was sternly voted down. In fact, to avoid even the appearance of evil, members were notified that they must not carry a golf club or a tennis racquet in going to the club on Sundays.

Fifty Years of Golfers' Raiment

IN THE days before 1900 haberdashers and couturières made no money out of golfers. "What shall I wear?" troubled masculine and feminine minds not at all. Men coming to the club from their offices changed nothing but their shoes, shifting to an old pair which the local cobbler had studded with hobnails. Then they shucked their coats, jammed their derbies down on their heads, and took a mighty swipe at the ball. But when Harry Vardon toured the country in 1900, they noted how he was dressed and began to blossom out in scarlet coats, tweedy knickers, and gaudy stockings, folded just below the knee. But no men had the temerity to appear thus garbed in the business sections of our villages, and when they dressed at home, they slunk through the back streets to avoid the amused or scornful glances of the solid citizenry who had better things to do than to walk several miles, trying to knock a little ball into a small hole with implements singularly ill-adapted to the purpose. In the middle thirties "plus-fours" went out and long trousers came in — still the nether garb of golfers everywhere. But since 1940 Brae Burn men have taken increasingly to "shorts" during the sultry summer days. Cool and comfortable they unquestionably are, but comments now and then heard seem to indicate that the men thus attired add nothing to the beauty of our fairways. When Robert Benchley's architect advocated full-length mirrors in his personal bath-room, Benchley returned an emphatic "No! I prefer to forget, if possible."

We are less certain as to whether ladies made changes before stepping to the first tee. We do know, however, that they were draped in long billowy dresses which swept the ground. They swayed gracefully over the fairways on two feet, but what the supports for those feet were, the young "founding fathers" could make only disturbing guesses about, until the changing fashions in women's skirts, much later, revealed how sturdy they were. These skirts grew shorter and shorter, crept up to the knees, and finally were discarded altogether in many instances for slacks on the golf course and "shorts" on the tennis courts.

To these changes in ladies' costumes our Directors made no demur — but when a considerable number of our men began on hot days to shed their shirts out of sight of the club house and put them on again on the seventeenth tee, this was going too far. The Directors put their foot down. In 1945 this notice was posted: "Members and their guests are requested, when they play golf, to keep their shirts on." A few days later, this verse appeared on the caddie master's bulletin board.

Let ladies shed their scanty skirts,
Revealing shapely thighs,
And let them bare their lovely backs,
Delighting manly eyes.
But never let the truth be told
That men have backs and chests.
These must be always covered up
By members and their guests.
So keep your shirts on everywhere,
Even when you sip your toddies,
And when you bathe, avert your eyes,
And blush that you have bodies.

SUNDAY GOLF

It is often said that old men's memories are very clear about events in the long-distant past—but we have interviewed every one of our oldest golfers within reach, and no single one of them has any distinct recollection of the exact year when Sunday golf began at Brae Burn. The nearest we have been able to get to it is this. One man who joined the club in 1908 says that at that time he could play only on week-ends, and he never would have joined if Sunday golf had not been permitted. Therefore the best guess seems to be that it began in 1909. No greens-keeper's men worked on Sunday till about 1920. Countless worm-casts covered the greens, so these the players had to scrape aside before anyone could putt. Neither were Sunday caddies allowed until 1925. In that year a new Golf Committee chairman was appointed. At his instance the Catholic Church authorities in Newton were consulted. The good Fathers sensibly concluded that their boys were much better off in the open air in the company of gentlemen, than otherwise. An earlier Mass was arranged for them and we have had Sunday caddies ever since.

For ten years Sunday golf went on, uninterrupted, though before 1916, play was forbidden on four Waban holes because of their proximity to a church. But on a Sunday in August, 1919, State Police officers stopped the play on several courses in Eastern Massachusetts. The next day their Chief announced that prosecution would follow if Sunday golfers persisted in playing. A test case to be taken into the courts was arranged for by the State Police Chief and the Brae Burn Golf Committee.

On Sunday, August 17, two Brae Burn men played golf, so that two State Police officers who followed them around might take their names and hale them into court. They were charged with taking part in a sport on the Lord's Day in direct violation of existing laws.

Here is a paraphrase of the *Boston Transcript's* report: Officer Hale's state-

ment, for the prosecution, ran thus; on reaching something they called a tee, he met Messrs. Kimball and Emerson. The following conversation occurred:

"Hello, Kimball, do you mind if I go around with you?"

"Certainly not, I'd be pleased to have your company."

Each defendant then knocked a small white rubber ball from this tee, using a stick with a wooden head. Each of these men had more of these sticks with iron heads which he carried in a long bag. They hit these balls repeatedly (!) until they finally lay on a small grass plot called a "green," in which there was a hole with a flag-pole in it. Each man then knocked his ball into this hole. Hale admitted that they were not keeping a score, that as far as he knew, they were not contesting one against the other, and that there was no talk to the effect that either player had beaten the other.

After several holes of play, Kimball said to Emerson, "Let's make a game of this." Emerson acquiesced and they resumed play, but this time they kept an account of their strokes, and stated that they were keeping the score to determine who had won.

The Machiavellian argument of the defense apparently was that whereas in games like baseball and tennis, opponents actively contend with but one ball, striking it with a kind of bat to keep it out of the reach of their adversaries, there is no such interference in golf. Each man plays his own ball, endeavors to better his former scores, and in that sense, competes against himself. The drawback to the game is loneliness. Therefore, men play together for companionship and sociability.

Judge Bacon ruled that "Sunday golf is legal in Newton, provided that no competition is involved." He stated that he did not think the Legislature which framed the law intended prohibiting the game of solitaire, either in cards or in any other diversion, that where men played in groups, with no thought of winning from each other, it was the same as though they were playing alone.

However, after Kimball said to Emerson, "Let's make a game of this," the court fined each of them five dollars. This was the end of the test. It was never taken to a higher court and was not pressed in April, 1920.

STARTING TIMES

In the earliest days starting times at Brae Burn, or at any other club for that matter, were unknown. Members merely walked out to the first tee and waited their turn. But as the membership grew and interest in golf increased, some sort of planning became urgent for Saturdays and Sundays. Members were advised that they must make applications for starting times in person or by telephone, not earlier than seven o'clock on Sunday morning, for "time" on the following Saturday afternoon and Sunday morning. This method was in effect with no change until the spring of 1925, and no matches started any-

where except from the first tee. This plan worked well enough for a while—but consider how the number of members increased from 1897 to 1925. Twelve times in these 28 years our Directors voted to raise the membership limit. Beginning with the 52 original signers of the first “Agreement of Association” in 1897 the limit rose to 100, then to 300, then to 400, 500, 600, 650, finally reaching a peak of 832 in 1921. Remember, too, that almost all of these were family memberships, entitling all relatives domiciled with each member to the use of the club. One statement in the “minutes” placed the number of people so entitled at 2200, and golf playing privileges in the 1920’s always ran to 700 or more.

Golfers who wanted starting times got out of bed before seven o’clock on Sunday mornings and went to the telephone. Many of them got the “busy signal” for twenty minutes or more and then were told that the only times left were before twenty minutes to eight or after ten-thirty. Your curious editor once visited the club at 6:45 A.M. and found some thirty patient men lined up at the desk waiting for the magic hour of seven to strike.

Starting matches from the first tee only, was another weakness which needed correction. Our 18-hole course when fully in use, accommodates 144 golfers, all playing in four-ball matches—and no more. Roughly speaking, it took about an hour for the first foursome to reach the sixth green. Twelve holes still lay idle out in the open sunshine, and it was not until the beginning of the third hour that the last six holes came into play. In 1925 the present system was adopted. Matches now begin simultaneously at the first, seventh, and twelfth tees, the whole course is in use during the first hour, and within the limits of that hour every player receives a convenient starting time. Also in 1925 the method of assigning “times” was changed. One member of each playing group now writes down four names, the caddie masters make the assignments, and each foursome is notified by post-card.

But the first ten years’ use of this plan brought out one serious drawback. For convenience, members almost always used the same four names and hardly ever played with anyone else. A six-handicap man was asked in Pinehurst how long he had known the Brae Burn club champion. “Ten years,” he answered. “How do you play with him?”—and he felt humiliated to have to say, “Why, as a matter of fact, I never *have* played with him.” In such a friendly place as Brae Burn, this was an incredible situation. The man went home and suggested an experiment for four successive week-ends, by requesting players to hand in their names in pairs instead of fours, and let the caddie master make up matches for them with other pairs of similar ability with whom they had never played. The suggestion was not adopted, but out of it grew the Rogers Cup competitions which began in 1936.

For ten years this tournament has been one of the high points of each season. From 120 to 150 men have entered, the drawings have thrown men together who have never played with each other before, and in most instances,

low handicap men who have drawn high handicap opponents have found their hands full with the strokes they had to give. Moreover, these low handicap men would be the first to admit that in these matches they had made friends with some men who could give them cards and spades in many much more important activities than the knowledge of how to hit a golf ball.

During the past twenty or twenty-five years, four-ball matches have been the most popular form of play for all week days as well as Saturdays and Sundays. No one nowadays cares to go out in a two-ball match unless he finds it impossible to make up a foursome. But before 1920 four-ball matches were prohibited on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays. On these days two-ball matches only were permitted.

WOMEN'S GOLF

We find two mixed foursomes listed in October, 1898, and June, 1899, the first one for nine holes only. These were real Scotch foursomes; only two balls were used, the men and women playing alternate shots, and of course there were no selected drives. But there is no record of women playing by themselves until September 30, 1899. On that date a "Ladies Medal Handicap Tournament of 18 holes" took place. In those days the girls were delicate creatures. It is stated that "In this event, a rest period may be taken at the end of nine holes." In 1900 they had grown huskier. They put on a Women's Invitation Tournament to which the women in twenty other clubs were invited, and also played team matches with Concord, Oakley, and the Country Club.

For many years now they have swarmed over our fairways during the morning week-day hours, playing the championship course from the front tees. Every Tuesday morning they hold their own tournaments and a considerable number of them turn in scores which most of our men despair of ever being able to equal. They would laugh "a rest period" to scorn, and like the postman, "not rain, nor heat, nor gloom of night stays them from the swift completion of their appointed rounds."^o

Women's Championships began in 1907.

^o From the Greek of Herodotus, written 2500 years ago — now inscribed on the New York City Post Office Building.



Robert Raymond Gorton, 1928. Seven Times Club Champion

The 1928 National Amateur Tournament

FINAL REPORT OF THE GENERAL COMMITTEE

October 24, 1928.

TO MEMBERS OF BRAE BURN: —

The Tournament is over. It was an unusual undertaking for our club, and it aroused a great deal of interest among the members. A legitimate desire to know the facts prompted many questions which it has been our policy to answer by supplying first-hand information in the form of printed letters, this being the last.

The most frequent question since the tournament ended has been, "How did we come out?" It has taken longer than we expected to get in all the returns. So far as finances are concerned we took in \$23,661.97 and paid out \$23,792.53, leaving a net expense of \$130.56. The tournament almost paid for itself. You will share our pleasure in this outcome because our decision to admit members free was contrary to the custom of other clubs in recent years and might easily have resulted in a deficit of several thousand dollars.

A great deal of credit for this favorable result should be given to the various special committee men who planned and carried out their assignments with unusual foresight and extraordinary business ability. These men anticipated every practical situation of the actual tournament week with such uncanny accuracy that the anxious daily luncheon meetings during which the General Committee had expected to wrestle with unforeseen emergencies never took place. As a matter of fact, it has not cost the club a dollar to conduct the tournament, for these same committee men at their last meeting on October 19th voted unanimously to direct that the item of \$130.56 listed as "Net Expense" on the balance sheet be charged pro rata to their November 1st bills.

To all of these men and to those other members who acted as marshals and served in various other capacities we wish to express our sincerest thanks.

It is known to you that Brae Burn did not seek the tournament and undertook the job with reluctance. But now that it is over, we think we perceive unforeseen benefits of real value to the club. On the different committees and in the groups which handled the galleries at least a full quarter of the entire membership worked together in a common cause. First names are heard more frequently than heretofore, and men who never knew each other at all now greet each other warmly. The event has resulted in closer relationships and increased respect for the other fellow's ability. It is a fine thing for Brae Burn to have done something which pulls us all a little closer together and gives us a greater pride in our club for having accomplished results which experienced

observers regard as the high-water mark in tournament achievement. Cold, grasping, tight-fisted old New England has been highly praised by hard-boiled newspaper men in their dispatches to the press all over the country, not only for constructive ability but for cordial friendliness and warm-hearted hospitality.

Having referred to experienced observers we wish you to share our pleasure in some of the letters received from them.

"Never in my experience has the association been so royally entertained nor a tournament so efficiently conducted as was that of Brae Burn. Nothing but the most thorough and painstaking preparation could have achieved such a result and it is a pleasure to congratulate every one of you on the work you did.

"I have been through five of these tournaments and I have never seen a better job and certainly none so good under such difficult circumstances."

MELVIN A. TRAYLOR,
President U. S. G. A.

"In my experience with the Association I have never seen a competition where the details were more perfectly planned and carried out. I am sure that you and your associates are to be congratulated for all that you have done, and it is my hope and that of my associates that after the smoke of battle has cleared away from Brae Burn, that you and your members will be entirely satisfied at having held the competition.

"I do not want to close without adding my personal appreciation to you and your associates for all that you personally did for us during our stay. I know the sacrifices that clubs have to make in these matters, and the hospitality extended to us and the members of the British team has placed us deeply in your debt."

H. H. RAMSAY,
Vice-President, U. S. G. A.

"Although I tried to thank you verbally before I left Brae Burn on Saturday for all the thousand and one things you have done to make the Championship so complete in every detail, I nevertheless want to take this opportunity to express my most sincere thanks and appreciation for the thorough and tireless work which you and your very efficient committees did to put the Championship across 100 per cent.

"I wish you would thank all of the committee chairmen and as many others as you have an opportunity to, not only personally for me for the endless kindnesses shown the U. S. G. A. Committee, but for their contributing part without which the crowds could not have been handled so successfully.

"You could not have made us more comfortable at the clubhouse or attended to the many little requests that always come up at a Championship with more dispatch and efficiency. The results of your organization make me proud to come from New England, and I want to express to you and all of your Committee my very sincere thanks, not only for the cooperation you have all shown since last February but also the willingness and personal enthusiasm each man gave immediately in carrying out any requests whatsoever that were made. I owe you all a deep debt of gratitude for this and the many new friends the Championship gave me."

HERBERT JAKES,
U. S. G. A. Executive Committee.

"May I congratulate you on the best managed Championship the United States Golf Association has yet conducted and I have attended every Open and Amateur except one for sixteen years."

GANSON DEPEW,
U. S. G. A. Executive Committee.

"It has occurred to me that after all the time, expense, and trouble that the Brae Burn Club expended in preparing for the past National Amateur Championship, the club, and you in particular, might be interested in hearing what some of the players thought of the various arrangements. Every one thought that the arrangements at Minikahda were as near perfect as possible. It was a matter of special interest to me to note whether Brae Burn could make a reasonably good showing in comparison.

"In this respect I am very anxious to express my satisfaction with every detail which entered into making the tournament at Brae Burn by far the best-run one that I have ever attended. Every one of the players expressed to me the same feeling of being perfectly content with all the arrangements. Please congratulate all concerned on their fine piece of work."

PHILLIPS FINLAY.

"I think you ought to be congratulated on the way the galleries and all details were handled at the club during the tournament. It was the best-managed affair the U. S. G. A. has ever put on. All of you fellows at Brae Burn should be very proud of your accomplishment."

ROBERT T. JONES, JR.

"I should very much like to thank you and all the other members of the Committee for the very great kindness you have shown me during my presence at Brae Burn for the Tournament. I do not know any place in America where I have felt more at home than at Brae Burn, and I should like everyone to know how greatly I appreciated their kindness, and enjoyed my stay. I can assure you that I shall always keep very pleasant memories of a most enjoyable tournament."

EUSTACE F. STOREY,

British Walker Cup Team.

"I want to try and express to you my great appreciation of the way you and your committees handled the tournament and all that pertained thereto.

"I have been overwhelmed by the undeserved compliments and praises I have received and have been glad to tell them where the credit belongs. I am proud for Brae Burn of the way the whole affair was handled."

HENRY B. DAY,

President Brae Burn Country Club.

"We, the undersigned, newspaper representatives attending the National Amateur Golf Championship wish to extend to the officials and members of the Brae Burn Country Club our sincere thanks and appreciation for the complete facilities provided for our comfort and courtesies extended which afforded us every opportunity properly to describe the play during this most successful tournament."

Statement presented to the General

Committee by the newspaper men

In conclusion perhaps our present feeling with regard to conducting a tournament is best conveyed in the sentiment expressed by one of our committee chairmen. "It was hard work and I enjoyed doing it, but I don't want to tackle another job like it, right away!"

Cordially yours,

ELBERT H. BROCK

WALTON L. CROCKER

FRANK L. RICHARDSON

LEON B. ROGERS

SHIRLEY K. KERNS, *Chairman*

1928 National Amateur Tournament Committee



Harvey Chase



Harry Ayer



Joseph Gould



A. Stuart Pratt



Curling at Brae Burn, 1910

CURLING

From 1907 to 1912 or 1913, when the Brae Burn rink was destroyed by fire, curling was a prominent sport in our club. Here is a newspaper description of that rink, written in 1907:

"Brae Burn has one of the most perfect curling rinks in the country, if not in the world. It is 150 feet long and 35 feet wide, and is built upon a raised platform. On this platform is spread 14 cords of sawdust, three or four inches deep, which is wet down and permitted to freeze. The rink is then flooded, with the result that a perfectly level surface of three inches of ice is obtained."

Few of us have any idea how curling in Scotland compares in popularity with our American games. Here is another newspaper quotation on this subject: "There are games and games. There is, for instance, the American National Pastime during which a devotee will sit for two and a half hours on a hard pine board without evincing the slightest discomfort, and will rise to his feet and howl till his tonsils become red and raw just because a young person with whom he is personally unacquainted has struck a horsehide-covered ball so severely with an ash stave that the ball is driven over a distant fence.

"This same devotee, however, is as a rule totally unable to perceive the exhilaration in striking a small white ball with various clubs, walking after it, hitting it again, and continuing the operation over several miles of diversified country.

"And if you lead a devotee of Golf to a tennis court and show him a man who is contorting himself and perspiring violently, in order to knock a soft, flannel-covered ball over a fish-net, he is more than likely to give vent to a long-drawn-out snort. And so it goes.

"If you, a baseball fan, or I, an ardent but wretched tennis player, should happen to be passing a nice, shiny stretch of ice and should see a cluster of dignified gentlemen running along just in front of a rapidly moving, highly polished cobblestone, and feverishly sweeping, with new brooms, the apparently spotless ice in the cobblestone's path, we would be more than likely to cry out, 'Poor wretches, they probably think they're having a good time.' But down in our hearts we wouldn't believe it.

"And yet we would have been looking at the Scottish game of Curling; and you can take it from any Scotchman that this braw and bonnie game has got a baseball game looking like a Morphine Eaters' Convention, as far as interest is concerned. Scotland is fairly batty over the game.

"Each year that country divides itself into two sections, select their best curlers, and hold a tournament. Teams, to the number of 1200 men on each side, compete, yet the whole tournament lasts only three hours."

Brae Burn Curling teams competed with varying fortunes at home and abroad against the following clubs: (in Canada) Montreal, St. Andrews, Thistle, Heather, Caledonia, St. Lawrence, Lachine, Outremont; (in the United States)

Boston Curling Club, Brookline Country Club, Jersey City, and the following clubs, all in New York: Caledonian, Thistle, St. Andrews, Utiea, Tuxedo.

Well-known Brae Burn men who played in most of these team matches were George Phelps, Stuart Pratt, John McGaw, Sr., Edward Woods, Charles Travelli, Harry Burrage, Joseph Gould, Harry Ayer, George Wright, Daniel Kidder, Harvey Chase, Frank Witherbee, Jack Estabrook, Everett Litchfield, Gardner Jones, and Leon Rogers.

There has been no curling at the club since 1913 but before then it was, next to golf, the most popular form of sport. Besides the men who played it for blood in the team matches, old records seem to indicate that at least fifty or more others played it among themselves for fun.

OUT-DOOR BOWLING

Brae Burn has not always kept the records we might have had, but we have found an illustrated newspaper account of the annual American Bowling Green Tournament held at Brae Burn in September, 1908. In this article our green was described as the finest in America. Teams representing many different sections of the country competed. Five teams came on from the state of New Jersey alone. The Brae Burn teams held the interest of the large gallery to the end, but lost its final match 53 to 30. The hand of Providence can enter a bowling match in surprising ways.

The costs of building and up-keep were low in those early days, but the club must have put in a good deal of money. The records show that \$1305.60 was charged to depreciation in one year, and \$711.23 the next year.

Interest in bowling went up and down, but was never quite abandoned. In the '30s Gardner Jones was the bell wether who gave it a new impetus. Gardner was a genial, active leader. He arranged matches with Woreester, Milton, and the Country Club in particular. It does not take much practice to become enough of a bowler to make a good showing and enjoy it.

However, to be a real bowler, one must be a Scotsman. At different times our players took on several matches with teams of Scots. In years, our men were much more elderly than their opponents. They thought these opponents took an unfair advantage of them by trotting after the bowl and encouraging it by gibberish which turned out to be Gaelic.

Here are some of the words they used:

Cha cho luath, cha cho luath, imieh gu mall.

(Not so fast, not so fast, go slow.)

Mò a dh' ionnsaidh a' ehli, mò a dh' ionnsaidh a' ehli.

(More to the left, more to the left.)

Ról, mò ghaoil, ról romhat air son onoire Albann áilne.

Roll, my darling, roll on for the honor of bonnie Scotland.

It was customary in these matches to serve sandwiches and drinks after half the game had been played — but in those early days, no liquor was permitted anywhere on Brae Burn property. In one match the Scotchmen demanded whiskey. The abstemious Brae Burn men could not comply — whereupon the indignant Scotchmen refused to continue, forfeited the game and marched off. On a later occasion the Scotchmen were more fortunate. They were entertained at supper, and the club had a liquor license. The Brae Burn captain, an abstainer, had to leave early. On the first of the next month he was amazed at the size of his club bill, and found that it was for the whiskey the Scots had consumed.

Brooks Gilbert carried on after Gardner Jones, and there were matches with Milton, Beverley, and a few other clubs.

Not so long ago Carleton Hammond had the green re-conditioned and it is now regarded as one of the best. But interest has waned, and we hear of no more team matches. Still, on pleasant Sunday afternoons, leisurely old gentlemen roll the bowls back and forth, and a few interested spectators watch them with curiosity as Rip van Winkle, after his long sleep, watched the little old men in the mountains three hundred years ago.

WINTER SPORTS

“The Brae Burn Skating Club” was an independent organization of unknown origin which Brae Burn bought in 1904 and has since promoted with increasing popularity. Not only is it used by regular club members and their families. Skating memberships have been issued at a membership fee to families outside of the club, whose privileges are limited to our winter sports activities — skating, skiing, coasting and tobogganing. A ski jump and a toboggan slide once stood on the hill-side parallel to the fairway of the 9th hole on the “little” course. The ski jump was a boon to Scandinavian experts around Boston whose daring feats attracted throngs of spectators on Saturday afternoons and Sunday mornings. It turned out, however, to be too difficult and dangerous for run-of-the-mill performers, and so far as is known, no Brae Burn member ever dared to take the risk of using it. But a mechanical ski-tow rope is still in use there for the benefit of coasters and tobogganers.

On winter afternoons the skating pond swarms with children and skating instruction is provided for those who wish it. In the old days big, wooden, box-like structures on runners with handles at the back, filled more or less by bundled-up babies, were propelled around by their progenitors. Grandfathers sometimes got their long-disused skates out of the attic, and thus employed, urged their protesting knee-joints into action, while grandmother in her fur coat, sitting on the skating-house platform, muttered, “Mutton that thinks itself lamb! He’ll regret this tomorrow.”

The first activity in winter sports at Brae Burn started in 1902 with the



Children's Ice Carnival

building of a dam for a skating pond. This dam was not built by the Club but by a group of public spirited West Newton men who were interested in curling and in providing a place for West Newton children to skate. This private organization was known as the Brae Burn Skating Club. Brae Burn bought this property in 1904. Prior to the making of our present pond there was a small natural pond near the brook south of Commonwealth Avenue. This was good enough for children's skating but was inadequate for anything else. At the beginning, aside from children's skating, the principal activity on this pond appears to have been curling. This sport had been started several years before at the Brookline Country Club, and interest at Brae Burn was aroused through Mr. Joseph Gould, father of Mrs. Leon Rogers. Joe Gould was a Canadian and had previously curled in Canada. The only charter member of Brae Burn now living who participated in curling the first year is A. Stuart Pratt. Curling continued for some years but it was difficult to secure satisfactory ice conditions at Brae Burn so members concentrated their activities mainly in Brookline, where there was an indoor rink. In 1925, under the direction of Harry L. Ayer, a special curling rink was built in the woods at the right of the first fairway, but this never proved satisfactory, and after the second year it was abandoned. Since then no attempt has been made to curl at Brae Burn.

The first ice carnival was held in 1907. Since that time several carnivals have been held each winter, omitting the world war years. Some have been fancy dress parties, and just before World War II—children's costume carnivals were held in the hockey rink, with prizes for the different types of costumes.

Other carnivals emphasized figure skating exhibitions in the Continental style which is now so popular in shows like the Ice Capades. Up to the year 1908, this type of skating was comparatively unknown in this country, and was introduced here then by George H. Browne and Irving Brokaw (American Champion of 1906). In fact, Mr. Browne and Mr. Brokaw, with the cooperation of Arthur M. Goodridge, now President of the Cambridge Skating Club, first introduced the international style of skating in the United States in the year 1908, when they brought some skaters from Europe who gave exhibitions at Brae Burn Country Club, the Skating Club of Brookline and the Cambridge Skating Club. Thus Brae Burn played its part in introducing this popular sport.

Since 1908 many leading figure skaters have given exhibitions at our skating carnivals. For instance:

Frank Bacon and Irving Brokaw, American Champions in 1903 and 1906.
Carn Zenger, World Champion in Munich.

Singles and Pair exhibitions by Nat Niles (National Champion, 1918, 1925, 1927) and Theresa Weld (National Champion from 1914 to 1924) and Pair Champions ten times between 1914 and 1927. These two represented the United States at the Olympics in both pairs and singles in 1920, 1924 and 1928.

Sherwin Badger, four times U. S. Singles Champion and three times Pairs Champion with Beatrice Loughran.

Maribel Vinson, nine times U. S. Singles Champion and once North American Champion.

Jimmie Madden and his sister Grace, both members of Brae Burn, U. S. Pair Champions in 1934. Jim was runner-up several times for the singles title.

Joan Tozzer, three times Singles Champion and three times Pairs Champion with Bernard Fox.

Polly Blodgett, Junior Champion once, and Roger Turner, U. S. Champion seven times, gave pair and singles exhibitions.

Gretchen Merrill, U. S. Singles Champion and close to being World Champion, skated for us many times since she was a 10-year-old youngster.

Susanne Davis, a Brae Burn member and Singles Champion in 1934, who received her first instruction as a little girl with long curls from Dan Keefe and Bud Munroe.

Louis Washburn, Brae Burn member and U. S. Junior Champion in 1921.

Bud Munroe and Edith Rotch, Champions of the Boston Skating Club in 1917.

In the early days music for the skaters was provided by a hurdy-gurdy, first run by hand and later operated by a motor. After some years this was replaced by a victrola in the club house with an outdoor amplifier. At some of the carnivals additional music has been provided by a band. Before the war carnivals were followed by supper and dancing in the club house, but due to the difficulty of securing help this practice was abandoned.

In 1908 skating races were introduced. The first race was participated in by both men and children. The mile race for men was won by George R. Angus, and the half-mile by Herbert Baldwin. Most of the girls' races in the early years appear to have been won by "B. Dowse" (Mrs. Sinclair Weeks). Children's races have been conducted each year. Usually they have been held on New Year's Day and Washington's birthday.

The skating program for the children could scarcely have been carried out were it not for the capable and understanding assistance given by Dan Keefe and Tom Kelly. Dan and Tom have been adored by the children and trusted by the parents. Because of their care small children were accustomed to go to the pond unattended to spend the day, bringing their lunches and having hot cocoa and crackers which were served in the skating house. Scores of children became proficient skaters under Dan's instruction.

For a number of years in the early '20's, the children had much amusement as they enjoyed sliding and spinning on tin trays down the slope of the first fairway.

In 1926 Jack Eaton became Chairman of the Winter Sports Committee, and working with Bud Munroe, was instrumental in having Brae Burn play a prominent part in popularizing skiing as it is known today.

In 1926 under their direction, and with the help of Sinclair Weeks and Bob Whidden, a toboggan slide and ski jump were built. For several years tobogganing was very popular and many private toboggans were stored in the garage. Eventually tobogganing gave way to skiing.

Many remember in the first exhibitions of skiing and ski jumping in the early spring of 1926 that Munroe and Weeks were the only two members who appeared with skis and bindings as they are so well known today. On January 1, 1927 ski races and ski jumping on our new jump were staged. Mr. Bing Anderson, National Jumping Champion, was present and many other members of the Norwegian-American Ski and Soccer Football Club. These Americans of Norwegian descent were delighted to be our guests for the day. Two thousand members and guests attended the sports.

Interest in skiing developed rapidly and proper ski equipment made by Oscar Hambro was placed on sale at the club house.

Many of our young men of college age participated in ski jumping, but after a few years the supports of the ski jump became unsafe and the structure was dismantled, along with the toboggan chute.

A rope tow was constructed and when snow conditions are good, "controlled" skiing is enthusiastically participated in by hundreds of our members, both old and young.

As an interesting sidelight Jack Eaton's grandson, George Macomber, who started skiing when Brae Burn played such a prominent part in popularizing this sport, is now a member of the American Olympic Ski Team, which goes to San Moritz, Switzerland in February 1948. George specializes in the down-hill and slalom.

For some years a special Winter Sports Membership has been accorded to those who are not regular club members. Winter Sports have been developing rapidly, and the use of the ski hill and pond has become so popular that the special winter membership now has to be restricted. If the demand for the use of these facilities continues, it would seem likely that they may have to be confined to regular club members.

HOCKEY AT BRAE BURN

Although Brae Burn is by far better-known by its golf activities, it has nevertheless had its share of success at hockey.

In glancing back, it appears that there have been three distinct periods of special interest and success in this sport. The first period covers the years of 1907 through 1911. Enthusiasm was increased by the installation of lights over the rink. On this matter, it is interesting to quote from a Boston newspaper of 1907:

"Another change at Brae Burn which seems bound to make the game more popular is the fact that the contests this year will be played at night. Large flam-



Brae Burn's Ice Hockey Team, 1907. Top Row, left to right – Charley Leonard, Bert Andrews, Carl Marshall, Harry A. Stiles, Wilder Pierce. Middle Row – Edwin Peters, Thomas Whidden, Winthrop Foster, Mackay, Percy Gilbert. Lower Row – Bullivant, Donald Blais.



Brae Burn Hockey Team, 1937. Left to right – Al Dewey, Clark Hodder, John Garrison, Ned Witherbee, Gordon Smith, Bill Elliott, Jim Hutchinson, Bill Ellison.

ing arc lights have been placed above the two regulation rinks and will make it possible to play the game with as great accuracy as if it were broad daylight. Playing the games at night will insure larger galleries, and as practice will also be held after dark, a larger number of players are expected to try for the team."

Due to this improvement, Brae Burn played regular schedules, which in some cases amounted to fourteen contests. The club was considered a formidable opponent and in each year won a large majority of their games. Even in these early days, contests were held with Harvard, Dartmouth, and M. I. T. On one occasion, the great Canadian seven from McGill University was held to a 4 to 4 tie. An accurate reflection of a game of these days is portrayed by a 1908 newspaper account:

"The Dartmouth hockey team defeated Brae Burn at the Brae Burn Country Club in West Newton yesterday, 5 to 2, in a fast game. In the second half the home seven showed to better advantage and scored two goals to their opponents' one.

"In the first half the college boys started off with a rush, and in the first few minutes' of play Doe shot the first goal. This was followed quickly by three others by the forwards. The college boys displayed good team work and their passing was also good.

"Capt. Leighton of Dartmouth played a strong game, as did Foote, last year's Dartmouth captain, who is now playing with the Brae Burn team.

DARTMOUTH		BRAE BURN	
Marston (F. Eaton) f.	.	f. Whidden (Ely)	.
Stuklin, f.	.	f. Foote	.
Perry, f.	.	f. Mason	.
Doe (S. Eaton) f.	.	f. Bullivant	.
Leighton, c.p.	.	c.p. Pierce	.
Pettingill, p.	.	p. Brett	.
Pishon, g.	.	g. Merchant"	.

Following World War I, hockey at Brae Burn entered its second era of sustained interest. From 1920 through 1926, under the leadership of William F. King, hockey enjoyed great popularity. Generally a six-game schedule was played. The high point of these seasons was a two-game series with neighboring Winchester, led by the redoubtable Trafford Hicks. Each of these winters, Brae Burn had a strong team and Capt. King could always call upon skillful players.

During the period from 1927-1937, it is perhaps fair to say Brae Burn enjoyed its greatest success at hockey. There were splendid players to represent the club and it was sometimes possible to play a ten and twelve-game schedule. Beginning with the season of 1930, Brae Burn was undefeated in twenty-four contests. This record included ten contests in 1930 and fourteen more in 1931 before the club was defeated in a game which started after midnight at the Boston Arena. (The club had already played and won one game earlier in the evening.) As a result of this record, Brae Burn in subsequent years was placed on the schedules of certain college teams. In the later 1930's interesting and enjoyable annual games were played with Harvard,

Dartmouth, M. I. T., Boston College and Boston University. Harvard, in hospitable fashion, would invite Brae Burn for a game at the Boston Garden or Arena—and this occasion was the high point of the schedule. In looking back, it is proper to say Brae Burn won a large majority of these college contests. In the year 1937, the climax of an undefeated season was a 9 to 2 victory over the St. Nicholas Hockey Club of New York City. This win (although the game was an informal one) was particularly satisfactory as the "St. Nicks" had just won the Amateur Hockey Championship of the United States. A picture of the 1937 Team is herewith presented.

A 1932 newspaper clipping is also reprinted to show a typical game and lineup:

“BRAE BURN SIX WINS OVER CAMBRIDGE, 3 TO 2

“Brae Burn’s hockey team kept clean its record of no defeats on home ice in four years when it defeated North Cambridge Hockey Club, 3 to 2, as the feature event of the annual carnival staged at the club last night.

“While Johnny Garrison, regular United States Olympic hockey team star, was the outstanding man on the ice, it remained for Jim Hutchinson to complete a pass to Clark Hodder in the middle of the last period for the goal that won the game.

BRAE BURN		NO. CAMB. H. C.	
Jim Hutchinson (Stanley) l.w.	. . . . .	r.w.	Desrosiers (H. Briand)
Hodder (Jack Hutchinson) c.	. . . . .	c.	Janelle (Ouellette)
Russ (Ellison) r.w.	. . . . .	l.w.	Robillard (A. Briand)
Crosby (Rice) l.d.	. . . . .	r.d.	L. Houle (Igo)
Garrison, r.d.	. . . . .	l.d.	Verrier
Learnard, g.	. . . . .	g.	Moone”

During the period from 1938 to World War II, hockey affairs at Brae Burn were under the able management of Gordon Smith and John Garrison. The chief feature of these years was the organization of a Junior Team. The Juniors had a schedule of their own, and the program met with enthusiasm and had far-reaching benefits. Under the guidance of Smith and Garrison, the younger boys learned much, and as a result, a number went on to play in advanced circles.

Any review of hockey at Brae Burn must emphatically mention the contributions of John Shanahan and Arthur Anderson. Over the years, these men always saw to it that there was good ice day and night. Because of them, no other pond had better rinks or better conditions for play. And no small boy, now grown, can ever forget the help, the patience, and the kindnesss of Dan Keefe and Tom Kelley. No wonder lads have been drawn to Brae Burn to become interested, to learn, and to go on, in many cases, to the top. Few probably realize how many boys “learned” their game at Brae Burn and later became captains of college hockey teams, and in five cases, members of United States Olympic Hockey Teams. In closing, it is a special pleasure to make a list of these boys:

COLLEGE CAPTAINS

Dody Scott	Amherst
Chet Scott	Boston University
Phil Hoyt	Cornell
Jimmy Hoyt	Williams
Roland Patrick	Amherst
Colly Burnett	Cornell
Bob Gross	Harvard
Bill Ellison	Harvard
Edgar Crosby	Harvard
Bill Blaney	Williams

OLYMPIC PLAYERS

John B. Garrison	U. S. Olympic Team, 1932 and 1936, Captain
Willard Rice	U. S. Olympic Team, 1924
Gordon Smith	U. S. Olympic Team, 1932 and 1936
Frank Spain	U. S. Olympic Team, 1936
Frank R. "Junie" Stubbs	U. S. Olympic Team, 1936

TENNIS

From 1905 to 1912 tennis was a prominent game at Brae Burn, running a close second to golf. The State Doubles Championships were held there in 1905, 1906, 1907, 1908, 1909, and 1912, on our gravel courts. This is rather surprising because the Longwood Cricket Club with its beautiful grass courts had been in existence long before then, and has been the scene of all important Massachusetts State and National tournaments ever since. In old records we find Nat Niles, Beals and Irving Wright, Larned, "Rab" Seaver, Sulloway, Leonard, Hovey, and the Johnson brothers as winners or prominent competitors.

But since 1939 we have had no tournaments of any kind. For several years before then we held club tournaments for both men and women, but the women's standard of play was not high. The men were more skillful wielders of the racquet. Henry Johnson won the club title in 1937. Harrison Rowbotham has been our club champion six times and still figures prominently in State tournaments.

In 1912 the club printed a Tennis Directory which listed 133 Brae Burn members as regular players. Four courts are now kept in condition. Two have been discontinued. A rather small number of men, women, and children play there for fun, but as an intra-club activity the game seems to have fallen into what Grover Cleveland used to call "innocuous desuetude."

There is an old saw to the effect that "nothing is worth doing unless it is done well." Edward S. Martin, the talented writer of Harper's "Easy Chair" once said to us, "That is not true. Nothing is worth doing unless you do it as well as you can, *considering the amount of time you have to give to it.* That is how our members play tennis on Saturdays and Sundays. They don't take lessons, they don't practise — but they do play as well as they can, and get a lot of fun out of it. The round-robin mixed doubles are as keenly contested as if they

were top-notchers. What do they care if their play is spotty and not "too hot"! They get what they are after—fresh air, exercise, plenty of laughs, and closer companionship with their families and friends.

Don't think for a moment, though, that nobody in Brae Burn knows how to play this game. Harrison Rowbotham has won both the Massachusetts and the New England titles. He has been ranked No. 1 in singles and No 1 in doubles six times. He and his wife have won the club doubles three times. He and his mother have won this same event four times.

Furthermore, Brae Burn has been a member of the Suburban Tennis League for eight years. This league play is all doubles. We won the Cup in 1939, and have been chasing the leaders ever since.

We have a few names of winners in Ladies Singles, Boys Singles, and Girls Singles, but this book is getting far bigger than anyone could foresee, so we hope these nice boys and girls will forgive us for not printing their names.

CARD PLAYING

Card playing at Brae Burn has gone on for years. We have already referred to the very old days when "nothing punctuated the silence but the clink of glasses and the clash of ivory chips." A few "poker" games occur on winter Saturday afternoons, but the most popular game of all is Contract Bridge. It is so called because, long before the days of "contract" or "auction," the dealer either named the trump or "bridged" that privilege across the table to his partner.

During the winter, every other Thursday afternoon the ladies put on duplicate tournaments, preceded by a luncheon. On the intervening Friday evenings, mixed duplicate tournaments take place. Two informal organizations of men play on winter Saturday afternoons. The larger group usually has three or four tables going in the golfers' café. Upstairs in the sun room, eight other men—the so-called "Winter League"—which has been going on for over twenty years, pit their skill against each other in duplicate. They once expressed their contempt for winter golf in these lines:

"It's wonderful,—this Winter League
For business men worn with fatigue.
Let golfers crazed for exercise
Pound frozen ground with raucous cries
And curses over wretched "lies,"
While we in sheltered comfort sit
Around the friendly board, and pit
Our luck and skill against each other,
Count honor tricks, and glory when
The welcome chance comes now and then
To say, "You're down five hundred, brother!"

One member—a banker—has been thus described:

“Scene I—Counting House of Bray Hall Manor. Richfrank, Lord of Bray Hall, is seated at a high dais, loaded down with doubloons and pieces-of-eight. He is clothed in a doubleton of brown velvet with silken hose to match. He wears no feather in his cap—there having been no occasion recently for any. The floor at his feet is littered with requests for lower interest-rates. His jack-boots are badly scuffed by his habit of kicking these aside.

“At one end of the great hall hangs a huge banner, richly emblazoned with his coat-of-arms. On a sable background formed like a spade, stands a lone queen guarded by two clubs, flanked on one side by a lion, proper, rampant: on the other by a dog, improper, near a mulberry bush. Over all, lettered in French, streams his simple device: GOD, AM I RIGHT?”.

HOUSE COMMITTEE

For the first seven years neither food nor drink could be obtained. We doubt if the first club house had even any bathing facilities. In March, 1904, Samuel Southall became the first steward, before the second club house was built. About that time plans were drawn and accepted for a bigger building. It was thought that \$40,000—would defray its cost and certain members bought bonds for that amount. With 350 members, a Dining Room to seat fifty persons seemed big enough, but the plans were soon changed to take care of one hundred.

For some time it was used mainly for evening dinner parties. Members had not yet contracted their present habit of taking many of their luncheons and dinners there. On January 6, 1905, the new club house was opened. On account of a terrific snow storm, only 25 persons were present on that occasion. At the end of the first year the total club operation showed a profit of \$10,000—and profits continued each year until 1917, when there was a first loss of \$395.

Now, in 1947, Brae Burn is “all things to all men,” as St. Paul once said—the man who had an astonishing experience on the road to Damascus. This quotation from the Bible will be news to any golfers (if such there be) who take the name of the Lord in vain, but to those others who relax in the evening after a gruelling Sunday round on the links, refreshing their minds and elevating their spirits by reading a few chapters from the good Book, it will seem most à propos.

But our undisciplined mind wanders. We were about to say that Brae Burn is not only our club and our playground. It is our other home where most of us live a good part of our time—where a few of us live all of the time. A whimsical hotel-keeper once remarked, “Everybody knows how to run a hotel, and everybody tells me how to run mine.” This boniface was Simeon Ford who went to England in 1904 with the great Walter Travis for the British Championship matches. In his practice rounds, Travis was putting badly. (Here we

are—wandering again!) Ford said to him, "Walter, if you don't get going, I shall have to take your place and ride into the breach—and you know how terrible I look in riding breeches"!

"Everybody knows how to run a hotel." How our house committee chairmen will smile when they read that statement! It is a big business job and only a big business man can handle it. Our house committee is responsible for the operation of the dining room, the grill room, the bedrooms, and all other club rooms and buildings. It is responsible for the operation of a laundry and a garage; and for the maintainance and care of the club house and all outside buildings, including all problems of heating repairs, renewals, and replacements, and the supervision of 50 to 60 employees. In 1947, the total house committee expense will be about \$233,450—Club rooms rental about \$16,000—and 1947 is the first year in the club history that the club dining rooms will operate without a loss. During the five-year period preceding 1947, the club served an average of 70,000 meals a year. In 1947 about 90,000 meals will have been served. Our bedrooms take care of twenty-three persons.

Moreover, we do not limit our service to our members. Our full facilities are freely given to all the worth-while community organizations in our vicinity. The Rotary Club, the Newton Hospital, the Community Chest, City Officials, and various other organizations all hold their luncheons, dinners, and meetings here—and the nubile daughters of our members seem to think marriage would be a failure, unless their wedding culminated in a reception at Brae Burn where they could toss their bridal bouquets into the eager outstretched arms of the excited bridesmaids.



Social Activities

IT WAS about 1915 and a few succeeding years that we had thé dansants on the bowling green in the summer time. A large canvas was spread on the turf, tables and chairs arranged around the sides, and an orchestra played for the dancing. Electric lights were arranged crosswise over the whole green and between 400 and 500 people often attended. Light refreshments were served.

Another early feature was the Annual Fourth of July Band Concert with fireworks set off on the No. 1 Fairway. This was open to the public and it was estimated that between 15,000 and 20,000 people attended from all over Newton, Brookline, and Wellesley.

New Year's Eve parties were one of the earliest forms of entertainment. We were one of the first clubs to inaugurate them in the early 1920's.

Numerous wedding receptions were always a part of the Club social life. Fashion shows and lectures, and talks by golf professionals were other events held for the members. We also were one of the first clubs to give our members a free dinner at the annual meeting.

In 1923 Mr. Southall, the Club Manager, arranged for his daughter to sing with a string trio playing to small groups in the living room Sundays between four and five o'clock. Later on other soloists were added to these small affairs leading to the now well-attended Sunday afternoon concerts. Among the artists were some of quite outstanding talent, including Richard Burgin, Miss Ruth Posselt, Walter Kidder, a number of Boston Symphony players, the Highland Glee Club of some forty or fifty voices, Alice Farnsworth, Luise Vosgerehian, Eleanor Steber, Miklos Schwalb, and many others who have made names for themselves.

Among those who for years have been of great assistance in arranging for these concerts are Mrs. Herbert R. Stearns and Mrs. Ernest R. Hale, the present chairman of the Sunday Concert Committee.

SELF-PERPETUATING DIRECTORS

From 1897 to 1930 the Directors were self-perpetuating. A nominating committee appointed by the president practically always re-nominated themselves and the others in office, the secretary voted his big sheaf of proxies, and the nominees were declared elected. The annual meetings at which this proceeding took place were always held in March. Outside of officers and directors, attendance was negligible. We remember one meeting in the '20s when only seven ordinary members were present. In these same '20s two futile efforts

were made to elect opposition candidates but these men were snowed under by the proxies. About 1927 the date of the annual meeting was changed to October and since then the attendance has been really representative of the club membership. In the early '20s there were only nine Directors. Most of these men were Charter Members who had been in complete control of the club ever since it was founded. When new money was urgently needed, the cash came hard. Members, asked to subscribe, gave sparingly or not at all. Their attitude seemed to be, "We have no voice in the management, they make all the decisions, let them pay for it"—and it is to the credit of the Directors that they frequently did. The heavy expense for a badly needed extra nine holes brought things to a crisis, resulting in the issuance of debentures and an addition of six new members to the Board. But this first step in re-organization was not enough.

In the very late '20s some of the directors became uneasy about this continued self-perpetuation. They foresaw embarrassment to the management and danger to the best interests of the club if this method were continued. One director backed up his remarks advocating a change by telling about his attending the annual meeting of a Canadian country club in which he held a summer membership—a club badly run down and ill-managed by a group of very old men who had been in control ever since the club was founded. A woman attended the meeting, which was unprecedented—a middle-aged spinster and a hard-bitten golfer. To everyone's amazement, she rose and addressed the Chair. "I know," said she, "that it is astonishing for a woman to come to this meeting—more astonishing that she should rise to speak—but I have only one observation to make. What I think this club needs more than anything else is a few important deaths!"

After much discussion the president appointed a committee to study the question, and bring in a report. This report was adopted. There are now fifteen directors. Since 1930, five are elected every two years for a term of six years, and no man may be re-elected until at least one year has elapsed. The terms of president, secretary, and treasurer are still unlimited. Under this plan, so far as we know, no man who has once served as a director, has ever been re-nominated for the same office.



Pauline Mackay
National Champion, 1905



Mrs. C. L. Dering, 1906



Mrs. Charles F. Bartholomew
Club Champion, 1937-8-9
and 1940-1-5-6



Ann Nichols (Mrs. Jasper W.)
1942-43-44 and 1947 Club Champion

Notes

1905 "Members must not, under any circumstances, play holes backward. Aside from inconvenience and danger to members playing the holes in the proper direction, there is also danger to women and children who walk over the course for pleasure. Two ladies have been almost struck by golf balls driven in the reverse direction of the course."

1905 "The stable is now open. Members may have their horses put up and baited. The charge for baiting is fifty cents."

Members living at a distance sometimes rode or drove horses to the club. Bridle paths, vestiges of which still remain, wound through the grounds back of the tees. There was much riding here in the early mornings and late afternoons. Side saddles, flowing skirts and derby hats, of course, for the ladies. These paths were built and presented to the club by Harry L. Burrage.

Two of our present members were caddies, and later, caddie masters, at Brae Burn.

Orville W. Forte, caddie master 1908-09-10.

Hugh Munro, caddie master 1911 and 1912.

In 1909 Brae Burn issued an eight-page booklet, "What I Know About Golf." The eight pages were blank.

1909 "It is unethical to stand behind an opponent when he is putting in order to get the line for your own putt."

1912 "Smoking, objectionable to some people at all times, is offensive to most people while they are eating. Therefore, smoking in the dining room is prohibited between the hours of 7 to 9 A.M., 12 to 2 P.M., and 4 to 8 P.M."

This rule was in effect till 1922. One day in that year the steward ran in consternation to the House Committee Chairman and cried out, "What shall I do? There is a woman in the dining room smoking a cigarette!"

"Nothing," said the Chairman, thus simply cutting the Gordian knot, guaranteeing the right to smoke, anywhere, any place, any time.

The first men's Invitation Tournament was held in 1900. One prize was a "Blasted Hopes" cup. The scores ranged from 85 to 120. Only five scores were under 90.

The Quaigh Cup competitions began in 1903. This cup was presented by George H. Phelps. "Quaigh" is the Gaelic name for a small shallow drinking vessel used in Scotland, made of hooped wooden staves, with ears.

No food was served in the club until 1903. In that year a restaurant was opened. The golfers' café was opened in 1908.

There was a first dinner dance in 1905. Even as late as that, there were still people who objected to dancing and card-playing, so this derisive verse attained a wide circulation:

"Said the Reverend Jabez McCotton,

The waltz of the devil's begotten.

Said young Christopher Sly,

Never mind the old guy.

To the pure, almost everything's rotten."

A man died of a virulent malady in the Newton City pest house which stood in front of the present 16th tee and was immediately buried near by. His skeleton was unearthed when Bruce Black built his home near our 11th tee. Bruce has retained the skull, possibly remembering that the Romans always set up a skull at their feasts as a memento mori.

On March 9, 1904 the name "BRAE BURN GOLF CLUB" was changed to BRAE BURN COUNTRY CLUB.

In 1897 the dues were \$10, with no initiation fee and no charge for golf. No charge for golf was made for any member of a family until 1919. Initiation fees began in 1898 with \$15



John Shanahan, 1902-1934. Brae Burn Greenskeeper



Charlie Lindquist



Johnny Riley



Pat Killilea



Arthur White

and have ranged from that sum up to \$200. Dues have risen gradually, by increases of \$5, \$10, and \$15, up to the present figure of \$195 (with tax). \$500 debentures were instituted in 1923.

Elsewhere we have reproduced photographs of seven men who have worked longest for the club.

John Shanahan, Brae Burn's greenskeeper for 32 years from 1902 to 1934. Of Irish extraction — one could immediately perceive from his brogue that he had never been wholly extracted — he was a fine product of the ould sod. If to make two blades of grass grow where one grew before is a life achievement, John's life was tops. He knew grasses, soils, and fertilizers as well as he knew his own face. He was the most efficient greenskeeper in all New England, probably also in the whole country, and gave his time and advice freely for the improvement of other courses. John's ever constant warning "Watch the color and character of the turf" has saved many a putting green.

Johnny Riley began in 1900. How well some of us remember him thirty years ago, partly because he mowed the greens bare-footed, but mainly because he frequently played a few holes of golf during his noon hour, still in his bare feet! He seems to be in excellent health. May he long continue to be so!

Dan Keefe, beginning as a caddy in 1902, has been caddie-master since 1913. In one respect only, in his fidelity to the club and the interests of all its members, does he differ from the geyser called "Old Faithful." He never shows heat, he never blows up, and he never gives off any steam. Have you ever noticed that the moment you ask him to do anything for you, he immediately reaches for the telephone or instantly "takes some other appropriate action? Has anyone else ever worked for you as promptly as that?

Arthur White has been the club's head waiter since 1906. He knows everybody — men, women, and children — and calls them all by name. It is known now to only a few that he used to wield a marvellously accurate putter on the putting green, and was a formidable competitor.

Charlie Lindquist has been with the club since 1910. He has shaken up drinks and served food in the café so long that, as Blackstone says, "the mind of man runneth not to the contrary." His straight flat back and muscular body is accounted for by the fact that thirty-five years ago, he was an amateur wrestler.

Pat Killilea has worked on the fairways and greens for thirty-one years. In a golfing round, if we missed seeing Pat somewhere near the second, third, or fifth greens, it would be as astonishing as if those greens themselves had disappeared.

Tom Kelley became assistant caddie-master in 1922, but he caddied off and on for several years before that.

Grass must be a hardy plant. We wonder that any of it is left on our greens and fairways, because from 1920 to 1942 the caddie-master's records show an average of 25,000 players per year. The actual figures for 1935 are 25,164 members and 2333 guests.

It takes money to maintain a golf course. The 1930 Greens Committee report states: "The labor cost on each hole of the 18-hole course was \$655 — \$336 for each green, \$245 for each fairway, and \$74 for the "rough." In 1946, with wages tripled, the cost for each of the 27 holes was \$825.

Parry Wiggin and George Angus are our oldest active golfers. Parry is 86, George is 79. They play regularly, three times a week, driving from the front tees. Parry's scores are usually in the 90's. George, who was club champion in 1909 and 1915, about half the time shoots somewhere in the 80's.

Charles I. Travelli, in making a golf stroke, talked to himself to make sure of what he wished to do. Swinging back, he whispered, "Go back *slow*." Swinging down, he said, "Come down *low*," — and when he hit the ball he shouted, "TRAVELLI!"

Robert Osborne drew the Golfer's Coat of Arms. The words and ideas were supplied by the Editor — a man sadly familiar with the situations portrayed.

Tennis courts and baseball fields are monotonous in their lack of variety. But every golf course is sui generis, with different terrains, different views, and different landscape effects.



Arthur Anderson
Greenskeeper

Charles Sheppard
Golf Pro

Dan Keefe
Golf Manager

Robert Dorion
Club Manager

Yet hardened golfers, we fear, are generally oblivious to the beauties of nature when they are playing. We wonder how many of our players know where our locusts bloom, where the rhododendrons flourish, or have consciously savored the pungent fragrance of the flowering shrubs by the path from the 17th green to the 18th tee?

We doubt if any of them have ever taken particular note of the gigantic clump of elms on the left of the 14th fairway, half way between the tee and the green. A Bartlett tree expert says it is about eighty years old. At a distance it looks like one tree, but five have there grown up together and coalesced into one tremendous trunk which has a girth of eighteen feet. The branches shade an area which has a diameter of seventy-two feet. The diameter of the famous Stockbridge elm, when the Editor paced it sixteen years ago, was but eight feet more.

One incident, we think, explains this indifference of the seasoned golfer. We once attempted to call the attention of an opponent to a beautiful sunset. He refused to look. "Hell," he said, "you can't expect a man to get enthusiastic about the scenery when he is five down!"

On May 12, 1897—the first day that golf was ever played at Brae Burn—two of our future members, Roy Merchant and Edwin Peters, caddied and received fifteen cents each for the nine holes, which was then considered a full round. Roy was overpowered by his employer's generosity when he was given a ten-cent tip.

In several winters between 1906 and 1915, Colin Bell, "Pop" Pierce, Sam Stevens, and George Angus played golf in the snow. They used red balls and located them by the holes they made. One week-end they played when the entire course was like porcelain, after an ice storm. Two of the men wore rubbers, but Pierce and Angus wore skates.

(This note is inserted solely for the information of the committee which handles Brae Burn's One Hundredth Anniversary celebration. Do not read it unless you expect to be present on that occasion.)

Fifty years from now, other men will read this book, seeking to learn what we were like, how we lived, and how we amused ourselves. Because of an ambiguous first name, without this note they would be left in doubt as to whether the present Editor wore skirts or trousers.

Charlotte Brontë says in her book that Shirley's parents, disappointed in having only a daughter when they wished so much for a son, "bestowed on her the same *masculine* cognomen which they would have bestowed on a boy, if with a boy they had been blessed."

No child has ever run to our knee, lisping the sacred name of mother. In our opinion no girl should ever take a man's name until some man asks her to. During his long life, this Editor has received hundreds of "form" letters addressed to him as "Miss." When correction was needed, the error was never repeated after he had written back, "I am the father of four children."

It was the original intention of the Editor to have no article in this book signed—but President Sawyer has ruled otherwise. So be it known by these presents that Linde Fowler wrote "High Lights of Golf at Brae Burn; Jack Eaton, "Winter Sports"; Baxter Milne and Crosby Blaney, "Club Lands"; James Hutchinson, "Hockey at Brae Burn." From facts and information known to himself or dug up by himself, or with the assistance of other members (notably Edwin Peters, Ralph Hatch, Harrison Rowbotham, Will Rice, Clarence McDavitt, and Adrian Sawyer) The Editor has written everything else. In the collection of material, it should be added that various club employees have also been very helpful.

Mrs. Frost said to "make it Scotch." We have even carried her suggestion into our typeface. Note its name: CALEDONIA.

FIFTIETH ANNIVERSARY GOLF TOURNAMENT

JUNE 20-21-22, 1947

Fifty-six pairs entered this best-ball event. There was a qualifying round followed by match play in four divisions, and three consolation divisions. This resulted in prizes for twenty-four men.

First Division Winners: John Clapp and Theodore Munro.

Second Division: John Billings and Charles Beatty.

Third Division: Stuart Conrod and Joseph Pikul.

Fourth Division: Shirley K. Kerns and George Livermore.

Brae Burn's Land

THE story of the land now owned by the Club and used in its various activities, is one of gradual growth from 1897 when the Club first took a lease of enough ground to start a golf course. It is also a story based on the forward vision and unselfish interests of the founders of the Club.

The Club property consists of a number of principal parcels together with a number of small pieces which from time to time have been acquired for the improvement of specific areas such as the twelfth tee, the tournament tee of the fourth hole, the parking space, etc.

Because of the complicated nature of assembling an area such as Brae Burn owns, it is not possible to attempt any description of the numerous parcels, or a history of the former owners. However, there are a number of principal parcels which can be generally described. The principal parcels making up the Club property are as follows:

1. The Bacon Land
2. The Quilty Farm
3. The Poor Farm Land
4. The Dix Land
5. The Little (No. 2) Course

And throughout the grounds we find our mental hazard—Cheese Cake Brook—which meanders over and under the golf course from the 13th fairway clear down to the skating pond.

1. THE BACON LAND

On this land are located the Club House, Golf Shop, Putting Green and Tennis Courts, together with the first hole, the second green, third tee, fourth green and part of that fairway, the fifth tee and most of that fairway, the sixth green, seventh and eighth holes, and the eighteenth green, and the fairway between the brook and the green.

Originally owned by one William F. Bacon, the land was leased to the newly organized Brae Burn Golf Club in 1897 for use as a golf course. The land was purchased by the Club in 1911 together with other pieces of land which the Club was then using.

In the lifetime of some of the present members foxes were frequently seen on the hillside of the seventh green and Tom Kelly states that foxes were seen there within the past six years. The eighth green, for some years the approximate site of the old Bartlett house, is located on part of the hill which became

known as "Moffatt Hill," which rises some 222 feet above sea level and provides a magnificent view of the surrounding country. This hill became known as Moffatt Hill for the scant reason that an old fellow named Moffatt "squatted" there for years in some old buildings. He lived as a hermit and associated with no one except when forced to do so for food or necessity.

2. THE QUILTY FARM

On this land are located the seventeenth green, eighteenth tee, sixteenth tee, tenth green, part of the fourteenth fairway, as well as parts of the seventh and eighth holes of No. 2 Course.

This land became known as the Quilty Farm after a man of that name who farmed part of the west side of Moffatt Hill, including the swamp (now forming part of the fourteenth fairway) which, together with the adjoining part of the thirteenth fairway became known as Quilty Swamp.

While the sixteenth tee is located on the Quilty Farm, part of the sixteenth fairway crosses the Poor Farm Land. At one time the Newton City "Pest House" stood in the hollow in front of the sixteenth tee. The Pest House does not appear to have been greatly used and the land became too valuable to be held for its use. While its disposition was being considered by the City Fathers, one of the two buildings "mysteriously" burned down at exactly midnight on the eve of one Fourth of July in the middle nineties. The other building was torn down shortly thereafter.

The remains of these two buildings continue to be a "pest" to a number of Brae Burn golfers as one of the cellars constitutes a real hazard to a dubbed drive.

3. THE POOR FARM LAND

This is in two sections, which are separated by part of the Quilty Farm, and also by a piece of land constituting part of the thirteenth fairway between the Quilty Farm and the railroad tracks. On this land are located: the ninth hole, tenth tee and most of that fairway, the eleventh, twelfth and fifteenth holes. The thirteenth green and the fourteenth tee are located on the other section.

Part of the sixteenth fairway lies on this land. Also the Quilty Swamp (now the location of parts of the thirteenth and fourteenth fairways) included that part of the Poor Farm Land between Cheese Cake Brook — the remains of which appear along the fourteenth fairway and across the thirteenth and fourteenth fairways — and the railroad. The records show that at one time there was a small dam on the brook beyond the thirteenth green, and that at the end of the dam there was an old buttonwood tree, famous as a landmark or reference point. The buttonwood tree died but the 36-inch stump can still be found in the area behind the thirteenth green.

The buildings of the Poor Farm were located on Beacon Street. When the

buildings were torn down in 1902, the Poor Farm Land was acquired by a syndicate for real estate development purposes.

The Club was using that part of the land under its 1898 lease and continued its occupation after acquisition by the syndicate. Plans were drawn for development of the land and recorded. Hereford Road was listed as one of the plotted roads. Members can still see the line of this road crossing the eleventh fairway from its abrupt termination on the left side of that fairway near Art Soule's house. The development was abandoned in part and in 1911 the Club purchased the land.

4. THE DIX LAND

This is one of the smaller parcels on which is located the second green, the third tee, the fifth green, and the sixth tee. This land was actually purchased for the Club in 1910 though the purchase was not formally approved until 1911.

Associated with this land are two small strips about 75 feet wide known as the Mague land and the Potter or Hill land, which were acquired in 1911 to improve the layout of the third fairway.

5. THE LITTLE (NO. 2) COURSE

This land was acquired in 1920 to build a new nine holes which would relieve the congestion on the 18-hole course. It consisted principally of land purchased from Henry B. Day together with three small pieces, now adjoining the fifth and sixth holes on the Little Course.

This nine-hole course was completed in July 1922, utilizing the newly acquired land with some small portions of land already owned for the first and seventh tees, the sixth and eighth greens (on the Bacon Land) and the seventh green and the eighth tee partly on the Bacon Land and partly on the Quilty Land.

The land forming part of No. 2 Course near the curve of Moffat Road (adjoining the fairway of the third hole) was used for a Deer Park some 40 or 45 years ago. This Deer Park was owned by Henry B. Day and was the second attempt to establish such a sanctuary, the first one having been in the corner formed by Chestnut and Beacon Streets. Both these projects suffered from the same defect. The fences constructed were sufficient to keep out dogs and other intruders but even a half grown deer would easily leap over—and apparently did so, as neither of these Deer Parks were maintained for any length of time.

CLUB HOUSES

On March 9, 1898 the Directors authorized President Phelps to close a contract to build a club house for \$1292. \$100 was voted for furnishings. We

can find no record of when it was opened, but we assume it must have been ready for use in the autumn. This building is now used as a home for our greenskeeper.

In March, 1904, Brae Burn made its first purchase of land on which to build a larger club house, the cost of this land being \$4000. The original part of our present club house was built in the summer of 1905 at a cost of \$37,504.16. The furnishings and equipment cost \$4,642.23.

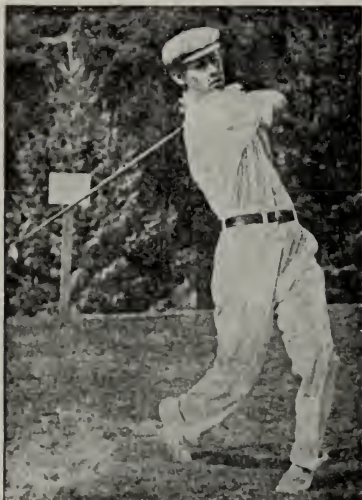
But this club house has been added to and immensely improved since then. For instance up to 1929, the men's locker room was very low ceilinged with five-foot, old and smelly wooden lockers. Adrian Sawyer at cost, lowered the floor three feet, rebuilt the room as we now know it, and installed the commodious lockers we now use. The reading room was once a pool and billiard room, and the living room was without any daylight. Servants' quarters have been built on the northeast corner, the sun room has been added, and very recently the west cocktail lounge and extra rooming accommodations above have been constructed.



1900. Harry Vardon Putting on the 5th Green — See Layout Page 72
of the 1st 9-hole Course in a 36-hole Match.



Bobby Jones Putting on the 1st Extra Hole of His 18-hole Match With
Ray Gorton in the 1928 National Amateurs Tournament.



John Anderson, 1905. Brae Burn Member. French Amateur Champion. Winner of Six Massachusetts Amateurs and One Open. Runner-up in Two U. S. National Amateurs.



In 1905 Sydney Cook Took Off His Coat.



Johnny Clapp
1947 Club Champion



Note the Editor's
Long "St. Andrew's
Swing" in 1903.



Bill Elliott, Club Champion,
1944 and 1946.

High Lights of Golf at Brae Burn

By A. LINDE FOWLER

Golf Editor of the *Boston Transcript* and Dean of Golf

Writers in the United States

EXCITEMENT and drama in major tournaments, plus no end of interesting and unusual performances both competitive and non-competitive, have figured in the half century of golf play at the Brae Burn Country Club. Before citing some which come readily to mind, or have been supplemented by research or supplied information, it would ill become this writer not, first, to extend his congratulations to the officers and members of a club which in its fifty-year stretch has contributed so largely to the advancement of golf and, through many of its members, to the progress and efficiency of the Massachusetts Golf Association.

In the matter of tournaments, Brae Burn is one of the few clubs in the country which has been honored with the assignment by the United States Golf Association of all three of its major national championships, viz. the women's in 1906, the open in 1919, and the men's amateur in 1928. The amateur developed an international character when T. Phillip Perkins, the British champion, became the finalist against Bobby Jones. Not the least interesting commentary, especially to those Brae Burn men who proudly believe that their course is one of the most testing in the world, is that all three of the nationals were won by recognized leaders of their respective periods, Miss Harriot S. Curtis, Walter Hagen and Bobby Jones. While it is true that Harriot Curtis did not subsequently measure up to the standards of her sister Margaret, who later won three nationals, it is equally true that Harriot, at the time of her 1906 victory, was rated among the foremost of women golfers.

The 1919 open and 1928 amateur, however, were the ones with excitement and drama attached, the 1928 amateur more particularly, from a home-club point of view, from the fact that it was one of their most popular members, Robert Raymond Gorton, who in the second round of match play gave Bobby Jones his only close call of the tournament, had a nice opening to beat him at the home hole, saved himself at that same hole with a nervy putt for a half and carried the Atlanta nonpareil to the first extra, for the first time in Bobby's triumphant career in national championship play.

This was a match which will live long in the memories of the observers, especially Brae Burn members of that period. The one factor in Gorton's favor was that it was an 18-hole, rather than a 36-hole round. It was conceded,

at the time, that Jones at 36 holes was well-nigh invincible. He had won the national open in 1923 and 1926, the national amateurs in 1924, '25 and '27, and the British Opens in 1926 and '27. Against this record Gorton merely had the background of being an all-fired good golfer who was no push-over for anybody, but who had failed by a scanty margin of joining the ranks of the greats. He had, for example, been 3 up with 4 to play on Francis Ouimet in the state amateur at Wollaston in 1913, had a short putt which turned off at the lip of the cup to win that match in the second round, and lost at the first extra, with Ouimet going on to win the state title, later the national open in the play-off against Vardon and Ray. The very next year, 1914, Gorton had tied with W. C. Fownes, Jr., for low gross, 144, in qualification for the national amateur at Ekwanok, lost to Fownes at the 37th hole in the third round of match play, squaring the match after being two down and three to play and having the better drive to the first extra.

These, and other performances, had stamped Gorton as a golfer not to be underrated by any opponent, in addition to which he had always been impressive as one of those golfers who play the game for the love he got out of it and with that happy come-what-may disposition that might have been disconcerting to any opponent. Moreover, in five of the six years preceding the 1928 championship, Gorton had won his club championship, against strong competition (he has won the club title seven times, all told), all of which could be counted as a boost to his morale even in facing the Georgian marvel.

Anyway, Ray started right out by winning the first and fourth holes, and though he dropped the sixth to a deuce, he became 2 up again at the seventh, only to lose the next two and turn all even. Both players went out badly, in 41 strokes, Jones came home in 34, Gorton in 35. He eagled the tenth and halved the eleventh with another 3, where Jones, to match it, had to play a spectacular second over the trees. Gorton failed to get his par 3 at the twelfth, but went one up again at the thirteenth with a 4, only to have Jones square again with a birdie at the fifteenth. Two par halves followed before they drove from the formidable back tee of the eighteenth which had been built especially for this tournament.

Here was the hole of the drama, for Jones, with the honor, pushed his drive off to the right, where he was stymied by a tennis court. It was a big opening for the home-club favorite, whose followers envisioned a great championship upset. Their spirits sagged when Gorton not only propelled a wayward drive off into the woods, but worse off than Jones, because he had to play a safety shot backwards. It was thereby impossible for him to get home in less than four, so that Jones, even though he had to play a safety shot at almost right angles into the fairway, had no difficulty getting home in three, to the back edge of the green, there to wait in a comfortable frame of mind for Gorton to play his fourth, which proved to be a most courageous effort in the face of almost sure defeat, thirty feet beyond the cup, a bit to the right and above it. Jones putted down to practically "gimme" distance for his 5 and, to make matters better for himself



Harriot Curtis, National Champion, 1906



1897 Brae Burn Champion



Bill Blaney
Club Champion, 1932-
35-40-41-42-43-45.



"Shorts" in 1947

and worse for Gorton, he laid a partial stymie. What a thrill for the big gallery and Gorton alike, therefore, when the Brae Burn representative of the irrepressible good humor and ready wit sized up the putt, stroked the ball with precision and delicacy for its down-slope roll, nicely around the other ball by the scantiest of margins and into the cup for a nerve-tingling half, insuring at least one extra hole against the man who was accustomed to piling up comfortable margins in the regulation number of holes. One extra hole, as it turned out, was all that was needed, though here again flashed the indomitable Gorton last-ditch spirit, for after pushing his drive into the woods and taking three to reach the back edge of the green, with Jones sitting comfortably close to the hole in two, Gorton's attempt to hole his long one for a 4, missed by an eyelash.

After that close call, Jones won his next three matches (36-hole affairs) by 14-13, 13-12 and a 10-9 over Perkins in the international final. He whimsically commented about the Gorton match: "Ray and I started out to have a friendly round, but he turned out to be the unfriendliest friend I ever met. First thing I knew, he was tossing 3's at me from any and all directions." Bobby was thinking of Gorton's eagle 3 at the tenth, birdie 3 at the eleventh and his 3 at the taxing long seventeenth, where Bobby, to match the testing par, had to come out of a trap and go down in one putt.

Gorton recalls, jocularly, that on the eighteenth hole of that match he used nearly every club in his bag — driver, niblick, 1-iron, 5-iron and putter. "In these days," says he, "you will recall that many of us carried very few clubs in our bag."

Nine years prior to this thrilling Jones-Gorton match there had been a spectacular last-ditch rally and ultimate victory for another of the all-time American Greats of golf, Walter Hagen, when in the final round of the 1919 national open at Brae Burn he had made up a 5-stroke deficit against Mike Brady, tied him in a characteristic Hagen fighting finish and then went on to a glorious victory in a play-off that had the galleryites in a dither until the final putt was holed that totalled 77 for Hagen, 78 for Brady, and the second time that Hagen had captured the nation's No. 1 golfing sceptre, the national open.

It was a golfing tragedy for Brady. He and Tom McNamara of the Boston District and J. J. McDermott of Philadelphia were the three American-borns who a few years earlier were the trio who had first successfully challenged the long-recognized supremacy of the British pros. Next came Hagen.

Twice before, 1911 and 1912, the open title had just eluded Brady. Now he faced his best chance at Brae Burn in the 1919 title quest, for at the end of 54 holes he led Hagen five strokes, with rounds of 74, 74, 73, as against 78, 73, 75 for the Haig. Then came disaster for Brady and a characteristic Hagen finish, 80 for Brady, 75 for his brilliant and unconquerable rival, to tie it up at 301. It was as if Dame Fortune had kept her hand on Brady's shoulder through three stellar rounds, for Brady's two 74s and a 73 were grand going for that day and age for the testing West Newton course; and then as if the fickle Dame had declared to Michael, "I've done my part for you to here, now take it on your own shoulders

to the finish." Eighty was the best he could do in his fourth round. Then he stood near the eighteenth green and waited for Hagen.

That gamester, one of the greatest of all time at match play, was out there working in a match-play frame of mind in his endeavor to overhaul the Boston pro; for Hagen, starting later than Brady, was keeping informed of what Brady had been doing. For some, that might be a handicap; not so for Hagen. He knew, eventually, that he would have to finish 4, 3, 4 to tie. He knew, likewise, standing on the eighteenth tee, that a 3 would cop the prize. The home hole measured 400 yards, with plenty of trouble for a wayward drive and more of it up around the green. He did what is generally fateful for the rank-and-file of golfers, i.e., pressed on that last tee shot, by his own later confession. He wanted to get out where he could use a mashie-iron for his second shot—the pet club of his entire equipment for a distance of around 150 yards. Therefore, he wanted to be approximately 250 yards on his drive. He did not look up, or drop his right shoulder or make any of the other errors common to many when striving extra hard. He could not have placed the ball to better advantage with his hand than he did on his tee shot. His mashie-iron, too, was just what the doctor ordered, stopping approximately eight or nine feet from the cup, with a backspin that indicated how masterfully the shot had been executed. The gallery, Hagen himself, and Brady, looking on, all thought the putt was good for the birdie 3 that would have obviated a play-off, but the ball bumped the cup and stayed out.

The play-off teemed with excitement, both in the play itself and in the incidents that cropped up concerning the rules. At the tenth hole Hagen walked forward and picked up a piece of paper, or cigarette box, which was more than a club's length from his ball. A galleryite averred that this entailed a two-stroke penalty. There was a controversy in which Hagen contended that Brady, on the previous hole, had removed a loose stone that was more than a club length from his ball. Players and the referee, Asa P. French of the U. S. G. A. executive committee, retraced their steps, the ruling was that Brady had infringed, which offset the Hagen violation at the tenth and the scores remained relatively unchanged, with Hagen four strokes to the good going to the eleventh. Brady's putter, the weak reed in his game to this stage, now began to function brilliantly, with the result that he picked up three strokes in four holes, amid rising excitement. He lost one at the sixteenth, but regained it at the seventeenth, where Hagen might well have lost the title. His drive was pushed off to soft rough at the edge of a line of trees, where the ball was not found for quite some time and then was discovered embedded to a depth where only a tiny portion was visible. Quite possibly, if not probably, it had been stepped upon by one of the many searchers, but as nobody had seen such an act, Hagen's dilemma could only be counted as an unfortunate "rub of the green." Hagen, always a quick thinker, demanded, as within his right, that the ball be lifted for the purpose of identification, to avoid the stiff penalty of playing one or more shots with the wrong

ball. He won his point; the ball was lifted. After the identification the ball was replaced in the same muddy cavity, but the very act of removing it for identification undoubtedly loosened the soil and simplified a recovery shot which was still a major effort. Hagen's power crashed the niblick into the heavy turf with such vigor that up came a big clod of mud and with it the ball. The ball came loose and had sufficient momentum to take it across the green into a bunker, costing him a 5. Brady, also in trouble on this long par-3, struggled valiantly for a 4 that left him only a stroke to the bad facing the home hole.

It was Brady who this time, with his back to the wall, made a great stab at a birdie 3, on a grand chip shot. This hole, at the same time, was the measure of Hagen's ability, proved on so many occasions, of rising to the heights in the clutch. His drive was topped, ignominiously, lucky to get over the brook, then 75 yards or so from the tee. A superfine iron got him to the edge of the green, then a chip to within a yard of the cup and a putt right in the middle that clinched the title and made him the first American-born to win our national open twice.

It is hardly necessary to say, to those who know their Brae Burn Country Club over the years, that all three of the national championships, 1906, 1919 and 1928, were conducted with utmost efficiency and in a manner that won the commendation of contestants and officials of the national golf body, as well as of the press, both local and visiting. For the record, however, it engenders a measure of additional pride to cite a Brooklyn writer's comment following the women's national 1906, as per the following from the *Brooklyn Eagle*:

"Will the persons who have long been declaring that Boston has no club capable of conducting a national golf championship stand up and be counted? When the vanguard of the New York delegation for this week's women's competition reached town and inspected the links and club house, the universal interrogation was, 'What's the matter with Brae Burn?' and the answer, 'She's all right.'"

Harry L. Ayer, major domo of preparations for, and conduct of the championship received from Secretary W. Fellowes Morgan of the U. S. G. A. the following letter as an aftermath of the championship:

Harry L. Ayer,
Brae Burn Country Club.

Dear Mr. Ayer:

Now that the tournament is over and we can all settle down to normal conditions. I want to tell you how much I enjoyed my stay at Brae Burn and to compliment you on the success of the tournament.

I feel that this was largely due to the great care you had taken in arranging all the details.

Right here allow me to state that when, in his letter, he referred to the "great care" Harry Ayer "had taken in arranging all the details," he mentioned



4-Ball League Team — 1935. Left to Right — Rutherford Ainslie, Ray Gorton, Dr. Vic Carpenter, Bill Blaney, Mel Heath, Milan Heath, Gerry Reed, F. B. Turner, Bill Kemble.



Brae Burn C. C. Team, Winner Boston 4-Ball League First Division Championship. Front Row, Left to Right — Arthur Corwin, Emery Stratton, Whit W. Scott, J. Rod Russ. Back Row — Shirley K. Kerns, J. Nelson Manning, Karl Mosser, Ray Gorton.

only one of the superfine qualities of a man who unquestionably played a major part, over many years, in the progress of the game of golf in this section; a leading rôle in the direction and development of the Massachusetts Golf Association, of which he was president in 1915-'16, vice-president in 1914, and a member of the Executive Committee from the time of the Association's founding in 1903 until he was elevated to the office of vice-president in 1914. He also was a member of the U. S. G. A. executive committee in 1911, '12, '13 and '14. It is not for me to say what a part he played in the affairs of the Brae Burn Country Club, but I would like to inject at this point one item which fairly typified the character of Harry Ayer. James Hutchinson, one-time Brae Burn junior member, Harvard golf team captain in 1928, remarked, when I informed him that I was writing something for the Brae Burn anniversary book:

"I wish you could work in something that Mr. Ayer did for the younger set of my day at Brae Burn. The club had a rule in those days that non-paying junior members had to play in the company of their parents. We young fellows felt that this was an imposition on our parents, who had their own favorite groups. Besides, we had a group of juniors who liked nothing better than to tangle with each other. Somebody broached the subject to Mr. Ayer, who quickly saw our point of view and got the by-laws revised. He took the stand that Brae Burn wanted the younger players, first, as a backlog of regular members of the future, then to encourage the youngsters and thus to develop good golfers, which in turn meant prestige to the club. Furthermore," remarked Jimmy, "our parents liked it."

What Jimmy had to say about Harry Ayer, his thoughtfulness and his foresight, comes home to this writer in manifold degree. In my earlier days of writing golf for the *Boston Transcript*, dating back to 1900, he was an inexhaustible fount of information, advice and suggestions. He knew the answers. That is why he had a voluminous correspondence with club officials, golf association executives and individuals from many parts of the country.

Among the Brae Burn juniors who benefited from the greater latitude for their players, besides Jimmy and his brother Jack, were such others as Bill Blaney, Emery Stratton and Eddie Stimpson. Blaney and Stimpson were later to become Massachusetts amateur champions in successive years, 1934 and '35, respectively. Prior to that, 1928, Blaney was one of the early New England amateur title winners. He also became president of the Massachusetts Golf Association for the years 1943, '44. Stratton, surprisingly, never won the state championship, though this supreme stylist was one of the most brilliant medal play performers, over the years, that this section has known.

To enumerate all the amateur golfers who have at one time or another been Brae Burn members would be to name a surprising percentage of those who have attained high prominence in competitions over the fifty years. The list would include Francis Ouimet, winner of two national amateurs, one national open, and the French amateur open championship; Johnny Anderson,

runner-up in two national amateurs, and winner of the French amateur open; Ouimet likewise winner of six Massachusetts amateurs and one open; Anderson two state amateurs. Other Brae Burn winners of state amateurs have been Percival Gilbert, H. W. Stucklen, Karl Mosser, Clark Hodder, Bill Blaney and Eddie Stimpson.

Two or three of the state amateur championships held at Brae Burn have had their dramatic moments only secondary to the nationals. There was, for example, the thrilling climax to the state amateur final between Eddie Stimpson and Mel Merritt in 1935. They had a nip and tuck battle over the regular eighteen holes, never more than two holes apart, each missing openings when they halved the last two holes in bogey 4s and 5s. Stimpson had shown his courage and resourcefulness in his semi-final match with Leo Martin when, two down with four to play, he won the fifteenth with a birdie 3, the sixteenth with a par-4 to get even, lost the seventeenth to a 3 and, one down going to the home hole, pulled a marvellous third shot, climaxed by a difficult putt on his part, three putts for Martin, to square the match. He won the first extra 4 to 5.

Now, here he was again, twice in the same day, all square at the end of the regular eighteen against Merritt in the final—competing, furthermore, against the man who had led the qualifying field with a 79 first round, then a brilliant par-cracking 71 in the second round, to head the medal-play parade by four strokes. That meant nothing to Stimpson in this situation. Here was a man-to-man tussle, with the honors accruing to the man who could first win a single hole. The gallery, large for a state tournament, viewed what foreshadowed an anti-climax when Stimpson pushed his drive in among the trees, going to the first extra and caromed his second shot across into the woods on the opposite side, whence his recovery was over the green on an embankment beyond. Merritt, meanwhile, had driven down the middle, banged an approach about six feet from the cup and was “sittin’ pretty,” contemplating a quite gettable putt for a birdie 3 and probably not giving a thought to what an easy 4 would suffice. Over on the embankment was Stimpson, playing 4, but calm, collected and concentrated. He sized up the terrain, hit his niblick chip shot with firmness and precision. The ball hit the green, took the incline, a slight curve that had been correctly figured and ducked into the cup for a most spectacular 4, to the accompaniment of an ovation from the gallery. Little wonder that Merritt’s bid for the putt which would still win, in the face of this miracle chip, was a trifle timorous and to the right of the cup. They consequently had to go along, the gallery augmented by those who had deemed the outcome settled after Stimpson’s wayward first two shots to the 19th hole. To the twentieth Merritt again had the better placed drive, but he hardly had regained his composure from the previous hole and dumped his second into the bunker guarding the green in front. Stimpson, from further back, put a little extra into a 3-iron which brought up on an embankment again, but this time he was there in two, whereas Merritt was still away after his explosion shot from the bunker. His sixty-foot

chip was a corker, actually hit the cup before it went on another three feet. Stimpson still had a nasty little downhill chip to lay dead for a winning four, but he played it superbly and thus became champion.

Another match at Brae Burn comparable to the thrills and surprising developments of the Stimpson-Merritt match, also in a state amateur championship, was that between Bill Chick and Francis Ouimet in the second round of the state amateur in 1914. Ouimet was five up with six to play, but was all square going to the home hole. Chick, in whittling down what appeared to be an insurmountable lead over the 1913 national open champion, had birdied the fifteenth and wiped out the remnant of the long lead by holing a 30-footer for a deuce at the 255-yard seventeenth. Then, as if he had expended the last of his ammunition, he bogied the eighteenth, lost to a 4, and Ouimet went on to win the title.

Chick, then a Brae Burn member, could contemplate with retrospective satisfaction his finish in the qualifying round. The play for the Windeler Shield, held each year by the club with the best aggregate scores of any five members, had developed a red-hot contest between Brae Burn and Woodland and the last hope for Brae Burn rested in Chick, who needed a par-4 at the home hole to tie Woodland's already recorded total of 414. What Chick proceeded to do was to land eight feet from the cup with a drive and iron and sink his putt for a birdie 3, to put Brae Burn once more at the top. It is significant of the calibre of amateurs enrolled under Brae Burn colors over the years that its Windeler Shield victory in 1914 was its seventh in nine seasons, up to that time, and that it rolled up eight more between 1924 and 1935.

In the light of the many fine players affiliated with Brae Burn in its half century, reflected in its Windeler Shield record and its eleven triumphs in sixteen years in the Boston Four Ball League, it is significant to note that the club championship has been won seven times by Ray Gorton, now in the ranks of the Seniors, and six times by Bill Blaney. Gorton's seventh, in 1929, came down to a final between him and Blaney in which Blaney led with 3 up and 5 to go, then dormie 2, after missing a 6-footer to win at the thirty-fifth hole of the day's play, followed by a squared match when Gorton holed a 12-footer for a birdie at the home hole. At the first extra Blaney called a penalty stroke on himself when his ball turned over while being addressed for a chip shot from the right of the green. Gorton had another 12-footer for a birdie 3, which he did not need for his hard-fought victory.

Five times in the days way back, 1902 to 1913, the club title had been won by Percival Gilbert, whose competitive record, dimmed by the passing years, was decidedly bright in the early 1900s. In 1909, as a Brae Burn member, he won the state amateur, defeating J. G. Thorp in the final, at Oakley. Defending his title in 1910, at Brae Burn, he had the distinction of defeating John G. Anderson, the 1907-1911 state champion, and Tom Fuller, 1908 state titlist, on his way to a final in which he was downed by his great friend and



1947 5th Hole



1947 6th Hole

Dartmouth College running mate, Henry W. Stucklen, another Brae Burn man, and the tallest state amateur champion up to the time of Ted Bishop, whose height of six feet three inches he just about matched. The final outcome was 5 and 3. Right here is the time to say that Stucklen's golfing ability, to my mind, never was fully recognized either in his heyday nor thereafter. He had to his credit a number of brilliant performances, decidedly the most noteworthy of which was when in 1912 he won the big summer tournament at the Ekwanok Country Club, Manchester, Vt., topping off a row of earlier victories with a 3 and 1 margin over the world famous Walter J. Travis. Among Stucklen's earlier victims was his friend Gorton, who two years later was to tie W. C. Fownes, Jr., for low gross in the qualifying round of the national amateur, which Francis Ouimet won on the same Ekwanok course.

It would ill become a veteran writer, trying to delve far into the past, not to bring in the name of George Angus, whose devotion to the game still finds him tramping the Brae Burn course the full eighteen holes in 1947 at the age of 79, and not satisfied with any score above the 80s. He always had a sound game, never struggling for distance, but marked by accuracy from tee to green and skill with the putter. The success of his system is reflected in his record of having won the Brae Burn club title in 1909 and 1915.

As one glances over the records, a striking factor about Brae Burn is the regularity with which, over the years, its ranks of better than average players has been supplemented. Every so often comes along a younger member to challenge the supremacy of those with well established reputations. After Gorton had won seven club championships, Stratton four, Chick four and Blaney his first, along came the brothers Melville, Jr., and Milan Heath, in the 30s to challenge the recognized leaders. These two were long hitters, Milan, big and powerful, began getting the headlines for some of his swats, but it was Mel who launched the brothers into a higher category of fame when in the State amateur at Kernwood in 1932 he led the qualifying field. Brother Milan, five years later, was in a triple tie with Ted Bishop and Donald Ritchie for the qualifying medal. At home the brothers also became a power, Mel winner of the club championships in 1936 and '37, Milan in '38 and '39. Mel in 1935 set a new amateur competitive record for the course, 69, and in 1939 he contributed a 68. That stood as low until Blaney's 67 in 1940. Last year Ted Adams of the South Shore, now a pro, went around in 66. Roy Bronsdon had a non-competitive record of 65 while pro at the club.

It is readily understood why the advent of new talent went slack during the war, but new blood appeared when Bill Elliott won the club title in 1944 and again last year. This year (47) in the amateur-pro at Furnace Brook he demonstrated that he could still whang them when as partner to Charlie Sheppard, the Brae Burn pro, he cracked off a sizzling individual 62 in the afternoon round.

And also in 1947 diminutive Johnny Clapp, age 26, stripped weight 112

pounds, gave away 70 pounds to big Bill Elliott, matched the length of all his shots, and won the club championship, scoring 73 to be two up in the morning round. Elliott's 73 in the afternoon round did not regain him a single hole.

Now to tackle, with trepidation, the subject of exceptional deeds, shots, freak happenings and all that sort of thing over the years by Brae Burn members, at home and away. I say "with trepidation" for the reason that in a club of such large playing membership, numbering so many who have played the course for many years there must have been innumerable occurrences of an unusual or freakish nature which never were publicized and are not available for these pages. Those who read some of the happenings herein set forth are apt to think, or say, "Heck, why hasn't he included what so-and-so did on the thirteenth, way back in the 30s, when he hooked one out of bounds, hit the railroad tracks, rebounded to the course a hundred yards further along than he could hit a shot."

However, when you come to a sure-enough "Ripley," who is going to top this? George Finlay, the ambidextrous laddie, registered an ace at the Charles River fourth hole in 1934, playing right-handed, and later in 1945 copped another ace at Brae Burn, playing left-handed at the sixth. That is a new one in my books.

Another ace at Brae Burn which could almost be classed as two holes in one shot, considering the distance, was Johnny Anderson's when he holed his tee shot at the old 328-yard sixteenth. It was on September 21, 1908, before the course was extensively altered. The fifteenth hole then ran East up the hill paralleling the north side of present sixteenth. The tee to the old sixteenth was up on the top of the hill, the line to the hole running West down the hillside now traversed to the seventeenth. The green lay on the flat in the valley, close to the seventh fairway, just short of the road. While the steep declivity at the end of a long drive made it possible for the good hitters occasionally to get home, under moderately favorable wind conditions, the carry had to be long. Anderson was an accurate and fairly powerful hitter and on this occasion he got away one of his best. The ball had the carry, got the right roll, got the final acceleration from the declivity, rolled to the green and across into the cup. Karl Mosser, Brae Burn member, Massachusetts amateur champion in 1923, playing on that day with Anderson, relates that "on the green was an elderly member who saw the ball rolling down the hill toward the hole, so he removed the flag and the ball rolled in." That version I never before heard and, in itself, may constitute a world record, where a hole-in-one had outside human assistance. In any event, it seems to stand as the longest recorded hole-in-one ever made by an amateur.

A hole-in-one at Brae Burn which had an added thrill for the performer because it established a new amateur competitive record for the course was registered by Bill Blaney in 1940 at the short sixth. It was the finishing hole of the round for Blaney, who had started at the seventh. He stood on the sixth



1947 12th Hole



1947 17th Hole

tee with a deuce to tie the amateur competitive record of 68 set up the previous year by Mel Heath, Jr., but he had only to hit his tee shot and a new record of 67 was his.

That particular short hole, with its highly elevated tee, its over-the-brook approach, its bunkers to the left, water to the right and an embankment and rough beyond, has been the scene of many dire, as well as gratifying or even thrilling results. One incident on this hole which constituted a rarity, with no equal in my books, for an achievement of its specific nature, consisted of four deuces by a group comprising Ray Gorton, Andy Highlands, C. W. Noyes and the club pro, Louis Tellier. Playing the sixth on June 17, 1919, all four spanked tee shots to the green, all within a radius of fifteen feet. Gorton, furthest away, putted first and dropped it; Tellier hit the back of the cup hard, but the ball dropped. Highlands negotiated a 10-footer and all three threatened Noyes with mayhem if he missed his, but he didn't.

Brae Burn way back in 1900 was the scene of an international golfing upset and then, as well as more momentarily thirteen years later, Harry Vardon was a victim. He had come across the Atlantic, had won our national open title and was rated No. 1 golfer of the world, with few if any nays. He had played a number of exhibition matches, won all but one where no handicaps figured, and his conqueror, Ben Nicholls, in a match down South, was the man secured by Harry Ayer to play the stellar Englishman at Brae Burn. Nichols beat him again and Brae Burn was in the international limelight.

Another international match, with less repercussions, had Hector Thomson, 1936 British amateur champion, and Jock McLean, runnerup for the national amateur that same year, playing Eddie Stimpson and Mel Heath, Jr., of Brae Burn from the extreme back tees used in the 1928 National Amateur Championship. The British pair won 3 and 2, despite the fact that Stimpson individually had seven 3s, chipping in with his niblick at both the fifteenth and sixteenth.

Before me I see notes, notes, and more notes about personages and deeds at Brae Burn: How Sam Macdonald and Colin C. Bell of that club were companions to George Wright when he introduced golf into this section by getting a permit from the City of Boston to figure out a temporary layout at Franklin Park in 1890, with tin cans for cups; how J. Nelson Manning went to the semi-finals of that 1901 unofficial state championship at Wollaston, and numbered Johnny Anderson as one of his victims; how L. J. Gilmer was the first Brae Burn representative to become a State amateur finalist, there downed by Arthur G. Lockwood at Brae-Burn in 1906.

Somewhere we must call a halt in this presentation of Brae Burn, as seen by a veteran writer, so let's wind up with a word or two about the Editor of this book. On occasions he struck the high spots of scoring, notably in the first round of the 1924 club championship, when he reeled off seventeen successive pars against Bob Mitchell, and bumped the cup for a par on the 18th. He then won

his next two matches against Karl Mosser, 1923 Massachusetts champion, and Emery Stratton, and was beaten one up by Ray Gorton in the finals.

On a number of occasions he has written articles on golf, both in prose and verse, which have so caught the fancy of magazine editors as to appear in their columns. Here are two which seem worthy of reproduction.

THE GOLFER'S AUTOBIOGRAPHY
(from "Golf Illustrated")

Oh, the silly things we do,
(Meaning me and meaning you)
Of searching in the air and all around
In a manner strained and tense
For a ball our common sense
Tells us still is sitting quiet on the ground.

I make careful preparation
With a wise determination
To do a thing I sorely want to do.
My back swing is perfection,
I make sensible correction
For wind and line and distance —
So do you.

But when I should be bending
Every effort to the ending
Of all I have successfully begun —
When I should be *down* and working,
My head comes up! — I'm shirking
To see results of something *not yet done*.

The lesson's this — much practice
Is footless, if the fact is,
You never practise self-control at all.
So step up, cool and steady,
And when you're good and ready,
For God's sake, be a man, and HIT THE BALL!

"KEEP MIND ON THE CLUB HEAD"

"ERNEST JONES HAILS ADVICE IN LETTER BY S. K. KERNS
AS A REAL 'SECRET OF GOLF.'"

"Here is the article from S. K. Kerns, Newton, Mass., that Ernest Jones, one of the most famous of all instructors, both here and abroad, picks as pretty close to the best and clearest answer to the game's mysteries that he has ever come across.

"'It is an answer—an article,' says Jones, 'that every golfer should read, study, and try to put into actual practice. I recommend it to everyone who plays golf.'"


"Editor of *The American Golfer*

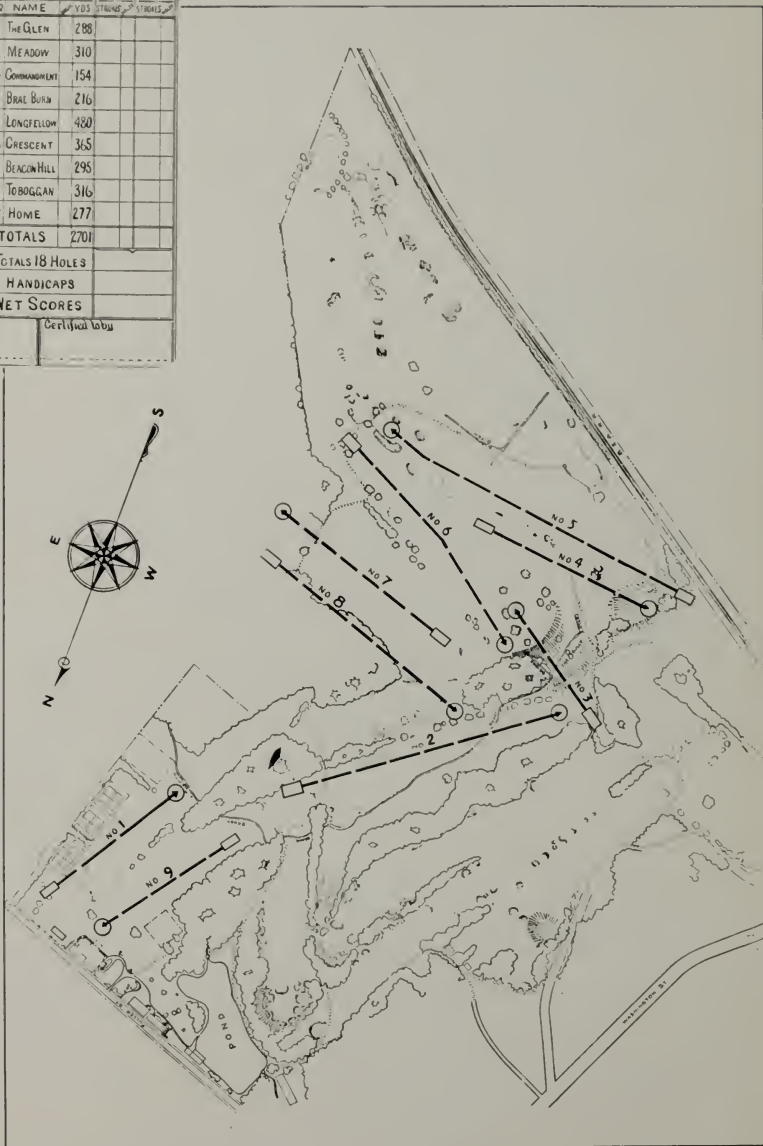
"Dear Sir:

"You ask for the 'true secret of golf.' It's no secret that you should take the club back slowly and easily with every muscle relaxed. It's no secret that your left arm should stay straight with the right elbow kept in, and that the natural movement of relaxed and therefore flexible wrists will result in proper "cocking" at the top of the swing. It's no secret that an unhurried pull from the left shoulder with a limp left arm will bring the club head down to the ball smoothly with astonishing power. It's no secret that a right arm, limp and fully extended at the moment of impact, will cooperate with flexible wrists to add to this power and produce a fine follow-through accompanied by a splendid pivot, *if* you "anchor" your head so that it moves not at all—neither up nor down nor sideways.

"Now, in a practice swing you do everything you want to do—and do it properly—because you know every moment of the time where the clubhead actually is. In your real swing you *do not* mentally follow the progress of the clubhead. You concentrate too exclusively on not looking up, or pivoting, or what-not—and you find (too late) that some other essential part of the swing went wrong.

"So here is, I believe, the secret of golf. MENTALLY FOLLOW THE PROGRESS OF THE CLUBHEAD DURING EVERY MOMENT OF THE SWING. Know where it is all the time, just as you do when you take a practice-swing. You will find this a hard thing to do—but is anything in golf easy? If you are man enough to do it, *it will take off strokes.*"

BRAE-BURN  GOLF CLUB									
WEST NEWTON									
THE 9-HOLE 1897									
SCORE OF					SCORE OF				
"LINKS"					1897-1902				
OUT	IN	HOLES			OUT	IN			
STRAKES	STROKES	NO	NAME	YDS	STRAKES	STROKES			
		1	THE GLEN	288					
		2	MEADOW	310					
		3	COMMANDMENT	154					
		4	BRAE BURN	216					
		5	LONGFELLOW	480					
		6	CRESCENT	365					
		7	BEACON HILL	295					
		8	TOBOGGAN	316					
		9	HOME	277					
		TOTALS		2701					
TOTALS 18 HOLES									
HANDICAPS									
NET SCORES									
Certified to by					Certified to by				



We reproduce here a score card of our first nine-hole course, in use from 1897 to 1902, a map of the lay-out, and maps of the three subsequent 18-hole courses.

No. 1 tee still is intact on the hillside, directly east of the 1947 18th green between the elm tree and the north tennis court. The green was short of the brook on the 18th fairway. With the gutty ball it took a fine drive and a full mid-iron shot to reach the green. No. 2 was our present 7th, No. 3 was the 8th, No. 4 was the 9th, No. 5 was the 10th, No. 6 was the 16th—but it should be noted that the distances were all shorter.

From the 7th tee, players drove straight east over the 8th tee of our 9-hole course. No. 8 was all down hill to the west, with the green on the flat just south of the oak tree and just short of the road. No. 9 tee was north of the brook.

The first 18-hole course was in use from 1902 to 1912. Herewith, the diagram.

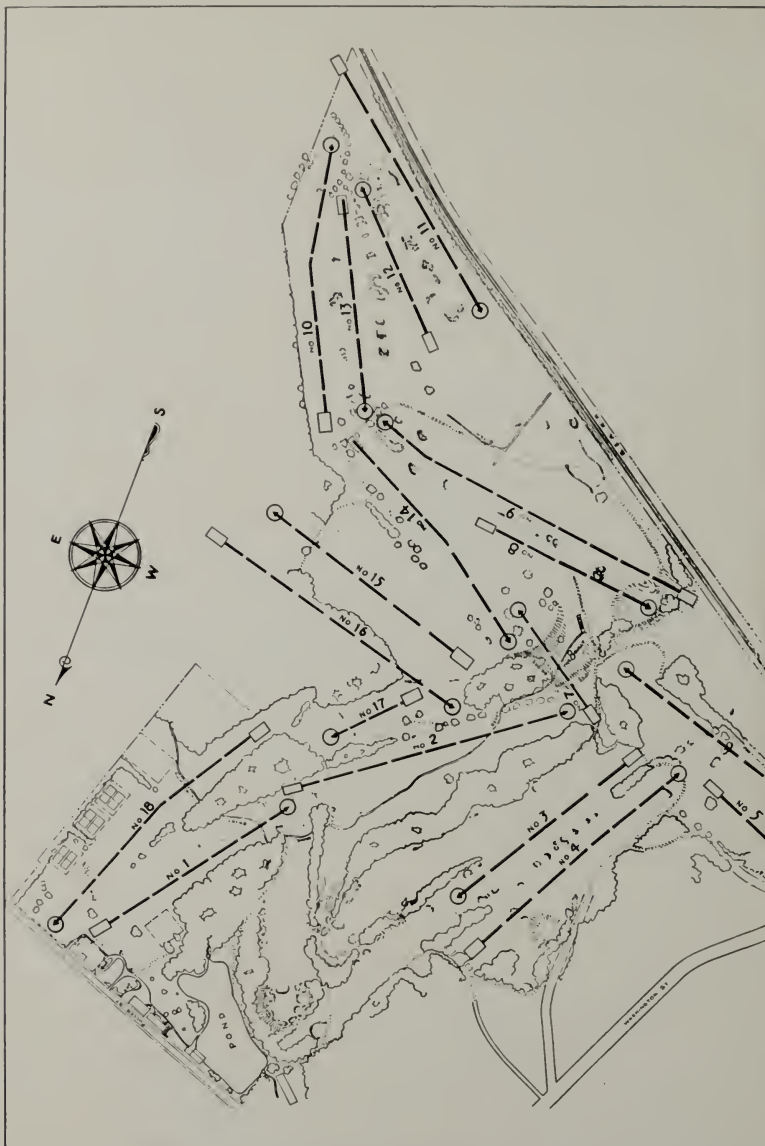
No. 2 was still our 7th, No. 3 green was a “punch-bowl” in the hollow just north of our 3rd green, No. 4 tee was down in the bushes north of the drinking fountain—a “blind” drive. The short No. 5 went west toward Woodland. No. 6 green was in the hollow west of our present 9th green where the big tool shed stands. Nos. 15 and 16 were the same as the earlier 7th and 8th, though longer.

The second 18-hole course was used from 1912 to 1928. All holes were much the same as our present course except Nos. 12, 13, and 18. 12 was shortened from 470 to 163 yards, 13 was lengthened from 190 to 378 yards, and the 18th green was still the practice-putting green.

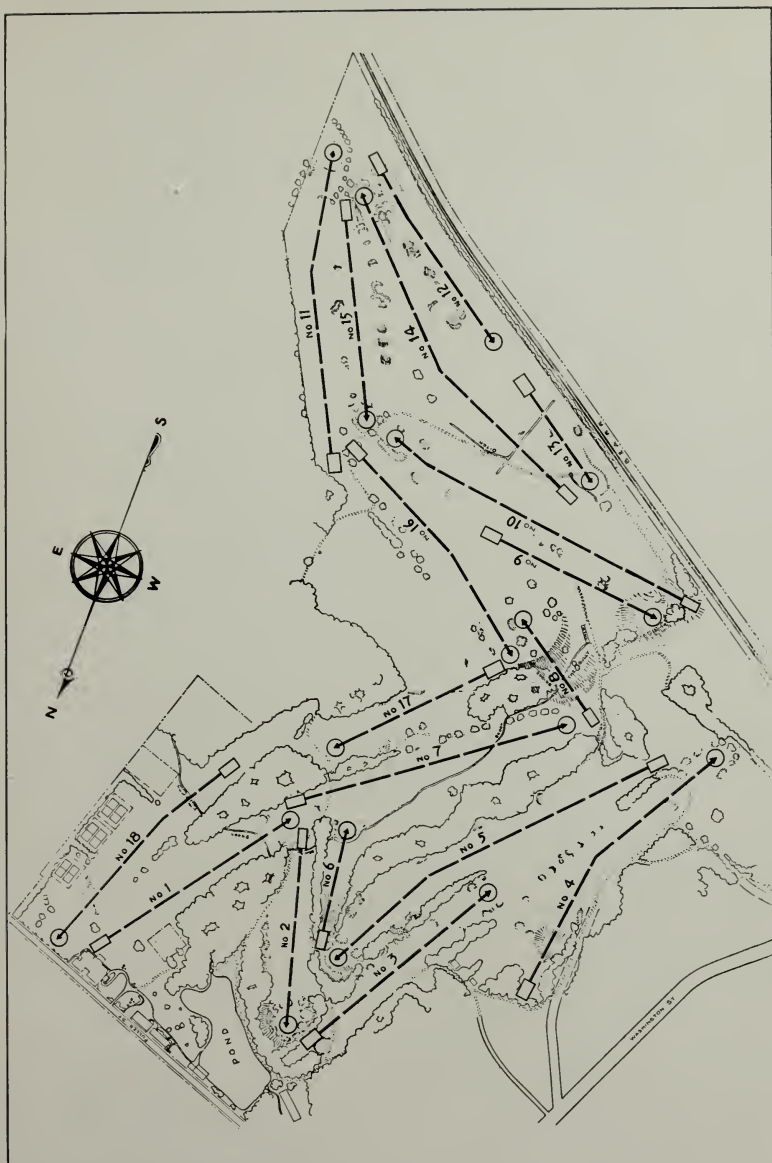
Our present 18-hole course is familiar to all of us, but no one knows what changes may come in the next fifty years, so we print a map of it here, as a matter of record.

On their good days our golfers bless Donald Ross, as sailors blessed the Abbot of Aberbrothok who placed the bell on the Inchcape Rock. On their bad ones, their comments would require asbestos paper.

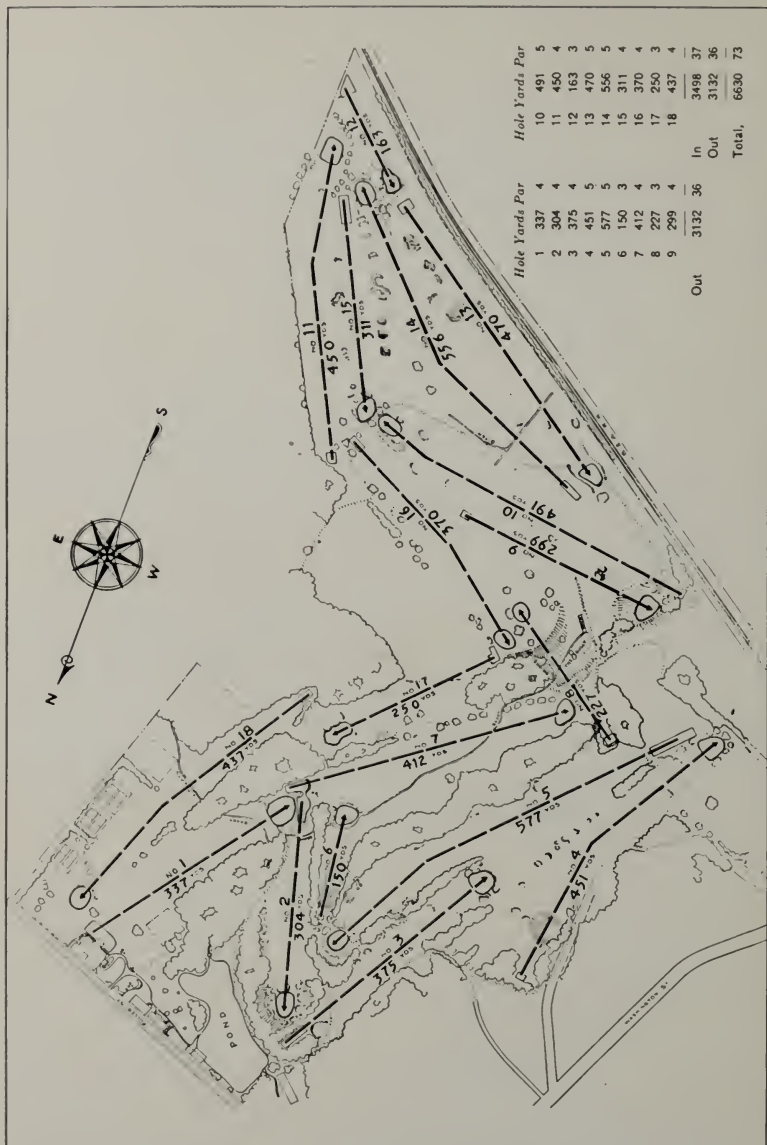
But for a full forty-five years, this dean of American golf architects has been writing his name and putting his fingerprints all over Brae Burn. We are immeasurably indebted to him for his skillful planning, canny Scots judgment, and never-failing assistance.



First 18-Hole Course, 1902-1912



1912-1928



MEN GOLF CHAMPIONS

1901 . . .	FRED H. HOVEY	1925 . . .	ROBERT R. GORTON
1902 . . .	PERCIVAL GILBERT	1926 . . .	EMERY P. STRATTON
1903 . . .	PERCIVAL GILBERT	1927 . . .	ROBERT R. GORTON
1904 . . .	HOWARD R. TOWNSEND	1928 . . .	EMERY P. STRATTON
1905 . . .	PERCIVAL GILBERT	1929 . . .	ROBERT R. GORTON
1906 . . .	PARKER W. WHITTEMORE	1930 . . .	EMERY P. STRATTON
1907 . . .	PERCIVAL GILBERT	1931 . . .	EMERY P. STRATTON
1908 . . .	WILLIAM C. CHICK	1932 . . .	WILLIAM O. BLANEY
1909 . . .	GEORGE R. ANGUS	1933 . . .	EDWARD S. STIMPSON
1910 . . .	WILLIAM C. CHICK	1934 . . .	MELVILLE F. HEATH, JR.
1911 . . .	WILLIAM C. CHICK	1935 . . .	WILLIAM O. BLANEY
1912 . . .	WILLIAM C. CHICK	1936 . . .	MELVILLE F. HEATH, JR.
1913 . . .	PERCIVAL GILBERT	1937 . . .	MELVILLE F. HEATH, JR.
1914 . . .	JOHN G. ANDERSON	1938 . . .	MILAN A. HEATH
1915 . . .	GEORGE R. ANGUS	1939 . . .	MILAN A. HEATH
1916 . . .	CHESTER W. DAVIS	1940 . . .	WILLIAM O. BLANEY
1917 . . .	RODERICK T. YOUNG	1941 . . .	WILLIAM O. BLANEY
1918 . . .	WILLIAM E. SMITH	1942 . . .	WILLIAM O. BLANEY
1919 . . .	ROBERT R. GORTON	1943 . . .	WILLIAM O. BLANEY
1920 . . .	NOT PLAYED	1944 . . .	ALBERT W. ELLIOTT, JR.
1921 . . .	ROGER H. HOVEY	1945 . . .	WILLIAM O. BLANEY
1922 . . .	ROBERT R. GORTON	1946 . . .	ALBERT W. ELLIOTT, JR.
1923 . . .	ROBERT R. GORTON	1947 . . .	JOHN S. CLAPP, JR.
1924 . . .	ROBERT R. GORTON		

WOMEN GOLF CHAMPIONS

1907 . . .	MISS MARGERY W. PHELPS	1928 . . .	MISS FRANCES STEBBINS
1908 . . .	MRS. F. WINTHROP BATCHELDER	1929 . . .	MISS FRANCES STEBBINS
1909 . . .	MRS. GEORGE W. ROOPE	1930 . . .	MRS. CHARLES E. DELAND
1910 . . .	MISS CONSTANCE RIGHTER	1931 . . .	MRS. CHARLES E. DELAND
1911 . . .	MRS. GEORGE W. ROOPE	1932 . . .	MISS RUTH BATCHELDER
1912 . . .	MRS. GEORGE W. ROOPE	1933 . . .	MISS RUTH BATCHELDER
1913 . . .	MRS. GEORGE W. ROOPE	1934 . . .	MISS RUTH BATCHELDER
1914 . . .	MRS. GEORGE W. ROOPE	1935 . . .	MRS. BRADFORD A. WHITTEMORE
1915 . . .	MRS. GEORGE W. ROOPE	1936 . . .	MISS ELIZABETH SMITH
1916 . . .	MISS KATHERINE F. DUNCAN	1937 . . .	MRS. CHARLES F. BARTHOLOMEW
1917 . . .	MRS. SAMUEL E. BENTLEY	1938 . . .	MRS. CHARLES F. BARTHOLOMEW
1918 . . .	NOT PLAYED	1939 . . .	MRS. CHARLES F. BARTHOLOMEW
1919 . . .	MISS KATHERINE F. DUNCAN	1940 . . .	MRS. CHARLES F. BARTHOLOMEW
1920 . . .	MRS. JOHN D. WOODFIN	1941 . . .	MRS. CHARLES F. BARTHOLOMEW
1921 . . .	MISS RUTH BATCHELDER	1942 . . .	MRS. JASPER W. NICOLLS, JR.
1922 . . .	MRS. EDWARD W. DALEY	1943 . . .	MRS. JASPER W. NICOLLS, JR.
1923 . . .	MRS. JOHN D. WOODFIN	1944 . . .	MRS. JASPER W. NICOLLS, JR.
1924 . . .	MRS. JOHN D. WOODFIN	1945 . . .	MRS. CHARLES F. BARTHOLOMEW
1925 . . .	MRS. JOHN D. WOODFIN	1946 . . .	MRS. CHARLES F. BARTHOLOMEW
1926 . . .	MRS. JOHN D. WOODFIN	1947 . . .	MRS. JASPER W. NICOLLS
1927 . . .	MISS RUTH BATCHELDER		

Fiftieth Anniversary Program

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 9—LADIES DAY

GOLF TOURNAMENT

SPECIAL BUFFET LUNCHEON

BRIDGE TOURNAMENT

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 10—SENIOR DAY

SENIOR GOLF EVENTS

(Open to those 50 years of age and older)

4 Handicap Medal Play Tournaments

(Different age groups)

Putting Contests

Driving Contests

BUFFET SUPPER

SPEAKER—BILL CUNNINGHAM

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 12—JUNIOR DAY

(Juniors, Associates and Members under 35 years)

GOLF TOURNAMENT

TENNIS TOURNAMENT

INFORMAL SUPPER DANCE

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 13—FAMILY DAY

MEN'S FOUR BALL TOURNAMENT

BOWLING ON THE GREEN

TENNIS TOURNAMENT

DEDICATION OF MEMORIAL FLAG POLE AND ROLL OF HONOR

OUTDOOR BUFFET SUPPER AND BAND CONCERT



THE GOLFER'S COAT-OF-ARMS

Two mashies argent, guarding a purse d'or,
on a field vert. The bar sinister indicates
that it is not a legitimate putt.

The editor and his associates wish to express their appreciation for the prompt, efficient, and personal service which Shepard Williams of the Old South Photo-Engraving Co., and the Thomas Todd Co., Printers, have given to the making of this book.

